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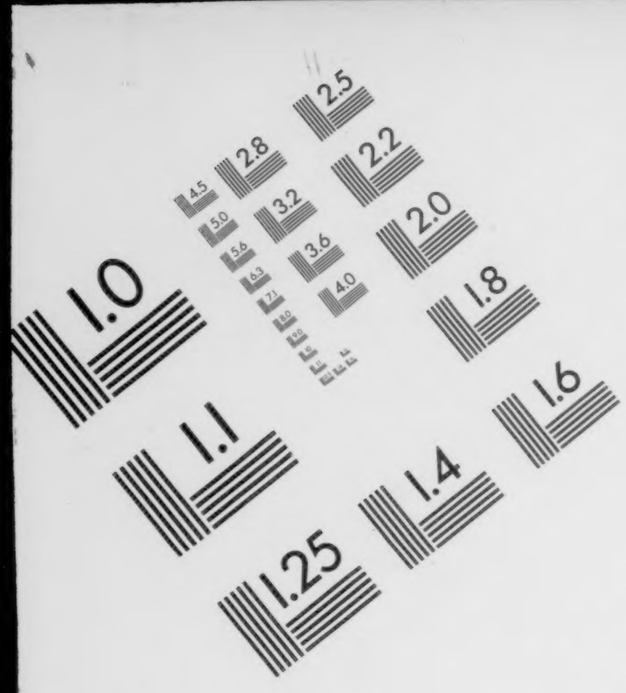
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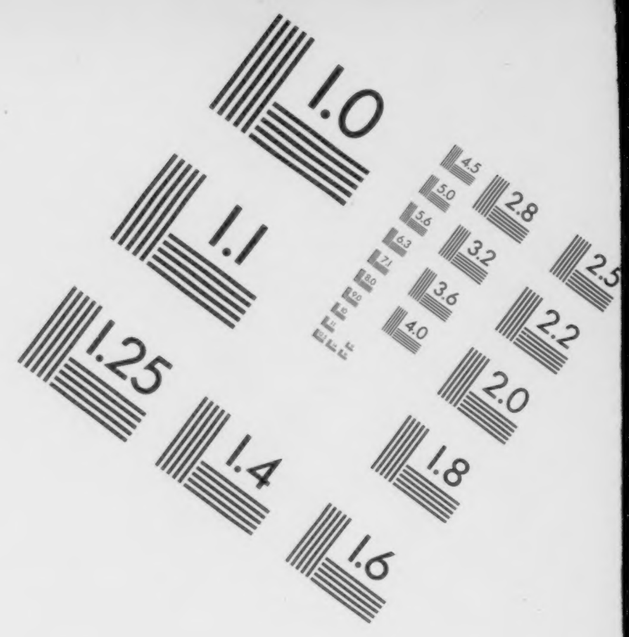


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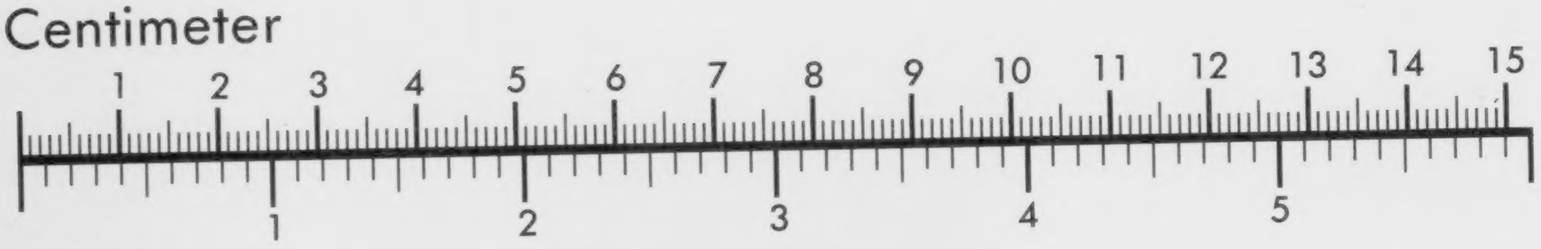
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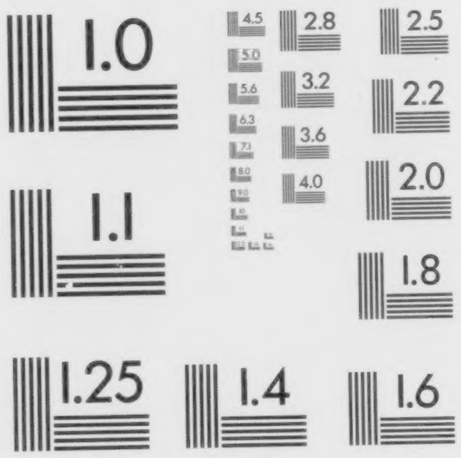
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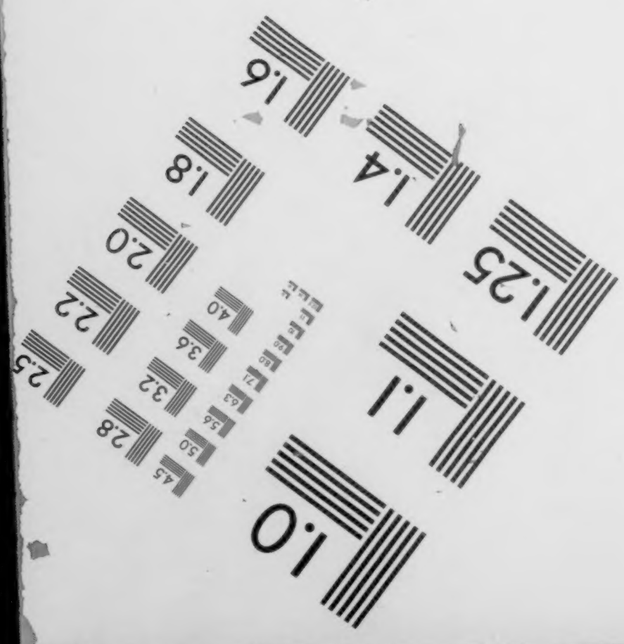


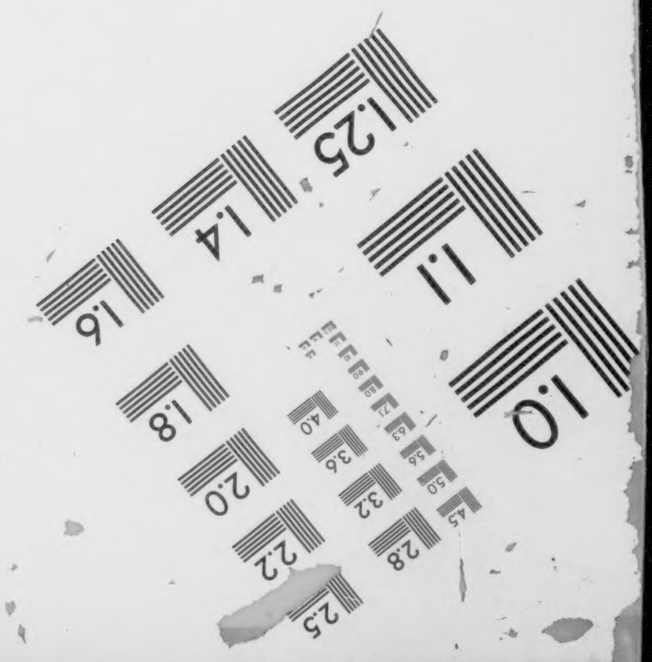
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THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

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IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

VOL. VII.

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PREFACE.

THE seventh volume of these Papers contains selections from the private letters and unpublished papers of Mr. Mason and Mr. Whitehead. Mason himself, in his Life of Gray, set a good example in letting the subject of the memoir act as the exponent of his own views. I conceive that no better example can be followed in this instance. A short notice prefixed to the letters of each poet, together with explanatory notes where such notes are necessary, forms the limit within which the Editor proposes to himself to exercise his functions. About one third of the letters from the Nuneham collection are here printed, and even those are much curtailed.

Peculiarities in spelling, in accentuation, in the use of capital letters, &c., have not been interfered with, save where slips of the pen were evident, or where slight alter-

ations had the effect of rendering the sense more clear.

More, perhaps, will be gathered in the way of information regarding the characters of Mason and Whitehead by this mode of presenting them to the reader's notice, than by any more elaborate scheme.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 6, line 15, *for* God *read* word.
,, 25, ,, 17, after view, *for* comma substitute colon.
,, 25, ,, 18, after Bingley, *for* colon substitute comma.
,, 47, ,, 12, *for* I. Pitt *read* T. Pitt.
,, 271, at foot-note add reference letter j.
,, 318, line 1, last word, *for* refer *read* defer.
,, 329, ,, 4, *for* æ *read* a.
,, 381, ,, 7, *for* painted *read* paint it.

MEMOIR OF MASON.

Memoir of Mason.

WILLIAM MASON was born at Hull, where his father was a clergyman, in the year 1725. He went to Cambridge in the year 1742, and he there contracted a cordial friendship with Gray.

Gray describes him at the time as

"a young man of much fancy, little judgment, and a good deal of modesty; a good and well-meaning creature, but in simplicity a child, reading little or nothing, writing abundantly, and with a design of making a fortune by it; a little vain, but in so harmless and comical a way that it does not offend; a little ambitious, but withal so ignorant of the world and its ways that it does not hurt him in any one's opinion; so sincere and undisguised that no mind with a spark of generosity would ever think of hurting him, he lies so open to injury; but so indolent, that if he cannot overcome this habit, all his good qualities will signify nothing at all."

One of his earliest poems, "Isis," printed in the year 1748, on the supposed Jacobitism

of Oxford, was answered by Warton in "The Triumph of Isis," of which Mason fully acknowledged the merit.

In the year 1752 Mason published "Elfrida," in which he attempted an imitation of the Greek poets, but critics were not favourable to the attempt. It was represented as a tragedy at Covent Garden Theatre; but neither in the year 1772, nor again when it was repeated with alterations in the years 1778 and 1779, was it received with much favour.

In the year 1753 Mason lost his father, and in the year 1754 he took Orders. Lord Holdernesse was his patron, and obtained for him a Chaplaincy to the King, and the living of Aston.

His next ventures with the publishers were Odes to Memory, to Independency, to Melancholy, and on the Fate of Tyranny. On the death of Cibber the Poet Laureateship was offered to him, but he declined it.

In the year 1759 he was more successful in a dramatic poem called "Caractacus,"

which was also performed at Covent Garden Theatre, and was received with applause. In the year 1762 Mason published three elegies, and in the following year his various writings were collected and issued in a single volume.

About this time Mason was presented by the King to a Canon Residentiaryship at York; he was made Precentor of that cathedral, and a Prebendary of Driffield.

In the year 1765 he married Miss Sherman, of Hull, but she only lived for two years, and died of consumption at Bristol, whither Mason had taken her for the benefit of her health. In the year 1772 he brought out his book on the "English Garden," of which Warton says,—

"it succeeded in bringing didactic poetry to perfection, by the happy combination of judicious precepts with the most elegant ornaments of language and imagery."

At the same period Mason was employed in publishing the life of Gray. It was given to the world in the year 1775. Gray left

him a legacy of £500, together with all his books, manuscripts, musical instruments, and other things: the life was written with singular fidelity. Mason was a great dabbler in politics, and was fond of patriotic manifestoes, which got him, as King's Chaplain, into some trouble at Court, so much so as to necessitate the resignation of his Chaplaincy. However, the French Revolution thoroughly frightened him, and thenceforth Pitt supplanted Fox in his affection.

In the year 1783 the translation of Du Fresnoy's "Art of Painting" appeared; the annotations made by Sir Joshua Reynolds to Mason's text stamped the book with an additional seal of value. The sister art of Painting had, equally with Poetry, been always wooed by Mason. His slighter sketches were more successful than his more laboured productions in oil. An example of the former is to be found at Nuneham in a sketch of Gray, from which all other pictures of that poet were taken; and his prowess in oils is exemplified by a picture of the good Samari-

tan, intended for an altar-piece for the Nuneham Church, and which certainly is a very moderate performance. One of the gardens at Nuneham still bears Mason's name, although the elaborate drawings of Paul Sandby shew us that time has altered the place so much that the original designs are now hardly to be traced.

In the year 1788 the life of Whitehead was written, and in 1795 an essay on English Church Music appeared. The old barrel-organ in Nuneham Church was set to the music of Mason's hymns. In the year 1796 he collected the whole of his works for publication, but the scheme was not carried into execution till after his death, which occurred April 7, 1797, at the age of 71. An accident brought his life to a close at a time when his bodily health and mental vigour appeared to be unimpaired. Mortification following upon an injury which he sustained by falling from a carriage caused his death. A monument was erected to him in Westminster Abbey. Charitable, firm in friendship, and

conscientious in the discharge of his duties, Mason was not above the smaller attributes of human nature, and his attacks upon Johnson, Akenside, Murray, and others, redounded little to his credit. Mason's poetry was conspicuous for its correctness, but he encumbered it with ornament, which marred the otherwise powerful effects of his descriptions; he is, however, entitled to a very respectable rank amongst the bards of his country. At Nuneham, as long as Nuneham remains what he so much contributed to make it—one of the pleasant places of the earth—Mason's name must always be esteemed a household god. The letters which follow are selected from his correspondence.

Letters.

MR. MASON TO LORD NUNEHAM.

"To Oxford, fam'd for Ale & Greek,
Mason is come all fat & sleek,
Ready to drive in half-an-hour
To meet his friends at Nuneham bower.
But, lest the Laureat & the Lord
Have chosen both to break their word,
(For Lords & Bards are sort of things
He trusts no more in than in K—gs),
Therefore he means to stay, & stare
at all that Oxford fancys rare,
And wait an answer to this lay,
Before he takes a fresh Postchay.

"*Cross Inn, Thursday*, 5 *o'clock.*"

"*Aston, May* 13*th*, 1757.

"MY LORD,—Tho' I have not had the honor to hear from you I have heard of you, & that *as how* when all the Nobility went to enjoy the delicious conversation of their grooms at Newmarket, your Lordship had bad taste enough to go visit the groom of a certain batter'd stallion called Pegasus, who seldom can keep upon his legs, but when he mounts him. Pray let me know the result of this expedition, and both how you like the University & the Person you went to see; in my mind, if he was in one of his oddest humours, he would suit your Lordship to a hair. But if he only behav'd well to you, you would

not like him at all. Tell me whether I am right in my conjecture.

"And now for a little about myself. I lead the sweetest nothing of a life that you can imagine, and yet I paint & I write & I play. My Paintings I rub out, my writings I burn, & as to my playing that exists only while my fingers are upon the harpsichord. O but then I preach, & have such congregations & am so much admir'd that I am afraid it will make a Coxcomb of me. And of all Coxcombs (as your Lordship knows) an ecclesiastical Coxcomb is the worst. Be that as it may I shall go preaching on to the end of the Chapter. . . . .

"My Lord,
"Your most obedient Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Nov. 10th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . As to my own Portrait wch you are so obliging to request, I can only say that if Wilson could have made a picture of me capable of enjoying your Lordship's conversation, I should give it you with more delight than ever I did any thing in my life. The honor you do me in giving me thus a place in your apartment I look upon as having already a place in your esteem & affection. And indeed that would make me more easily submit to what otherwise would

look like vanity in me. Painting was design'd to represent the Gods or great Men that stood next to them, but Friendship I see takes no measure of any thing but by itself, & where it is great & high will make the object so, & raise it above its level. This is that wch has deceiv'd you into my picture and made you put so great a complement upon me, & I do not know what you will find to justify yourself to those who shall see it in your possession; you may indeed tell them the original is as much yours as the picture, but this will be no great boast, when the man is not more considerable than his shadow.

"Now on supposition that your Lordship has fairly read the foregoing page, I suppose you to cry out, 'what the Duce is Mason about? I never heard him either talk so or write so.' Very true; but, in the last page, be it known to your Lordship, he transcrib'd part of a letter of Mr. Locke's, & this he did for two good purposes, first, because he knew not what to say himself upon the subject, & secondly, because He thought this transcription might prove to you (if you wanted a proof of it) 'That great Philosophers can, if they please, be as affected & coxcombical as any Poet of us all,' & if you are not convinc'd he refers you to the rest of the Letter (Vide Locke's Works, Fol., 3rd vol., page 550), as well as to Mr. Molineux's answer, who says very ur-

banely, ''tis true Painting was design'd to represent the Gods & the great Men who stood next them, & therefore it was that I desir'd your picture.' Wch, if he had not said, I think Mr. Locke would have been balk'd.—But after all you'll expect I should say something myself about this matter. I therefore must add that (all speeches about honor you do me—Unworthy—Such a figure, &c., &c., set aside) I cannot think that so unclerical a representation of me is fit to be given you, but if you'll have me Wigg'd, Banded, Cassocked, Gown'd, and to crown all, Scarf'd (for I'm a King's Chaplain you know), I will sit for you, when you please. I saw Whitehead's picture when I was in Town, but it must not go out of Wilson's hands till I see it again, I want several touches about the mouth, &c., & the whole is a tame likeness at present.

"As to 'Caractacus,' he goes on as well as he can, not so well as he should. The 'Faithful Shepherdess' is untranscrib'd, and I have no Curate now to do such things for me.

"Therefore I hope your Lordship will excuse my sending it, & also excuse my long Epistle, wch, considering the smallness of my hand, exceeds yours a great deal, yet I don't bid you swear, as you did me.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your most oblig'd & devoted Servt,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Jan.* 10*th*, 1759.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Pray let Miss Rich know that the Clergyman she inquires after was my Curate, whom I thought too well of to suffer to be buried at Aston, & therefore (burying myself in his stead) dismisst into Kent to be tutor to a young gentleman there. If you ask Mr. Whitehead after him, he'll tell you also that he is a Poet—and so he is, & much fitter to wear the Laurel than Whitehead himself. For I like neither of his Odes. The first is my aversion, because after all the noise he makes about Guelpho he takes not a bit of notice of the fair Princess Cunigunda, who, let me tell him, deserv'd all due honor for her namesake, as I could prove out of a book of German Etymologies wch I lately read. As to his last Ode there is but one line in it like an Ode, & that is,

'To British George the King of Isles.'

"You say, my Lord, that you fancy I bury myself in the country out of economy. Not at all I assure you, I could live in London like half the folks in it, that is, by exceeding my income about a third ev'ry year. But that signifys nothing, it is not my reason. I live in the country because my fav'rite philosopher Rousseau tells me 'La Solitude *calme* l'âme,' wch I construe makes it stupid, & of wch I think I find the salutary effects. Nevertheless I sometimes look at 'Caractacus,' &

have given him now his quota of Odes, yet I question whether he will appear this spring; my criticks are so tardy in sending me their criticisms. I will plague your Lordship no longer at present, only please to tell Miss West, with my compliments, that I attempted to answer her note, but could not do it without pulling off my gown and cassock.

"Your Lordship's devoted Servt,
"W. MASON."

Arlington-street, Oct. 30th, 1759.

"MY LORD,—You do me great injustice in saying that I have given my picture to Dr. Gisborne. The matter of fact is this, Gisborne has lately furnished his house. He told me before I left London last, that he wanted a picture for a particular part of the room, & asked me to lend him mine. I told him if Wilson would consent to it I had no objection, for that I did not intend to take it out of his hands for some time; accordingly he asked Wilson for it, who put him off under pretence of altering the hand. This Wilson says himself was the acc't he gave your Lordship, & declares he never told you that I had *given* it away; the truth is, I intend the picture for Mrs. Mason, that she may know what a pretty sort of fellow I was formerly, when I had my *hair tyed up*, & was *a Poet about town.* Was this not the

case I should certainly have done myself the honour to let your Lordship take it at your first request, but really the picture is too coxcombical to be fit for any body, except such a *pretieuse* creature as I intend the said Mrs. Mason to be.

* * * * * *

"I can send your Lordship no news, except that Miss Chudleigh going thro' the Anti-chamber yesterday after the Princess, stooped to take up a dirty piece of paper, wch she suspected might be a billet-doux. She was too fat to stoop low enough, & therefore a Physician, more fat than herself, lent his assistance; they could neither of them get their hands lower than their knees, & therefore, after two or three ineffectual efforts, were oblig'd to desist, making one another a bow and a courtesy. The pages laugh'd, the gentlemen ushers smil'd, the officers on guard sneer'd, & only the Chaplain in waiting, with a decency peculiar to himself, kept his countenance. . . . .

"I am, your Lordship's
"Most devoted Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*July 18th*, 1760.

"MY LORD,—. . . . Lord Lyttleton's Book I have seen nothing of, except indeed one Dialogue in the newspapers between Boileau & Pope, wch I

thought a parcel of as pert, priggish, puerile prate as ever Westminster School boy talk'd after he had acted a part in a play of 'Terence,' & been clapt by the wits of the Royal Society, & consequently commenc'd coxcomb for life. But your Lordship says you like the Dialogues, I will therefore read them all, when I can do it under the price of 4 shillings.

"Don't expect me to commend your Lordship for not accepting a commission in the Militia; I assure you, if I was not happily in Orders, I should think it my duty to stop both my ears with wool, then learn to let off a gun, & taking the wool out by little & little, habituate myself so to the sound of that noble instrument of distruction as to stand fire, if not heroically, at least unstartingly. I don't say that your Lordship need go into the wool regimen, but yet—somehow or other—I think you ought to make a part of our national defence if you could; in order to stimulate you to this, I send you the following promissary note:—

"I, William Mason, do promise to write upon the Lord Viscount Newnham's Military atcheivments one Pindaric Ode consisting of three Strophes, three Antistrophes, & three Epodes, so soon as the said Lord Viscount Newnham shall of the French, our natural & implacable enemys, have well & duely slain nine Mounseirs, w^{ch} is one less

than any single Englishman is in duty bound to kill for the service of his king & country. Witness my poetic & patriotic hand this eighteenth of July, one thousand seven hundred & sixty.

"W. MASON."

"*Arlington-street, Nov. 21st*, 1760.

"MY LORD,— .... Sandby has made such a picture! such a bard! such a headlong flood! such a Snowdon! such giant oaks! such desart caves! If it is not the best picture that has been painted this century in any country I'll give up all my taste to the bench of Bishops (even to the Bp. who you know read one Ode & not t'other), and ask not even a prebend in exchange. Put on your hat & feather! your red surtout, your Dressden cane, your ribband muff,—put them on, my Lord, & take your chaise du poste, & be pelted all the road for a French Marky, & depend upon it you'll be amply rewarded by the sight of this picture: then there's Roche Abbey too! every side & nook of the charmingest ruin in England! In a word, Sandby improves as much in painting as your Lordship does in caprice, or I in laziness, or Miss Chudleigh in fat, or Miss West in, in, in—charms, & in a short time will be that Claude Lorraine, that Browne assured him he was at Lord Scarbro's in my hearing, & therefore desir'd him 'not to spoil a Claude by eating too many filberts.'

"I thank your Lordship for recommending to me Watelet's Poem, w^ch^ I have at last seen (tho' methinks, considering I was then at Aston, it would have been more charitable in you to have put it under cover for me to Fraser). The dissertations at the end on Beauty & Grace are my particular fav'rites. But what have I to do with Beauty & Grace? I that am but a poor country parson. I forget whether I thank'd you in form for the honor of the Dedicated Etching, I think I did before I rec^d^ it, if not, I now want words to do it, for I exhausted all my eloquence last Sunday in a Sermon at Kensington, & have now nothing left but a little sort of Babbiliardize, w^ch^ your Lordship's candor is pleas'd to call wit, & your judgment oblig'd to think nonsence. However, what ever it is, it is my own, & that's more than many people can say of their superior talents. . . . .

"I rest your Lordship's

"Most oblig'd & devoted Servant,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, January 12th*, 1761.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I begin to wonder I have not the honor of a letter from you, your usual condescention in that matter is the cause of this wonder; I have a notion that you are angry because I never communicated to you my Funeral Sermon on Lady Coventry. The reason was that I thought

it too moral for you, for altho' I know your Lordship while abroad was a good & catholic Christian, yet I know not what metamorphosis England & Miss West may have brought about.

"How I long to read *La Nouvelle Eloise*, if it be, as the papers say it is, really Rousseau's! I shall meet it, however, at Doncaster next week, for Fraser is to bring it me in his way to York, where I too mean to accompany Lord Holdernesse, in order to chuse a proper candidate for Knight of the Shire for this great, good, & opulent county. This journey I shall undertake in the midst of winter out of pure love to old England. May your Lordship copy my patriotism and love your country, tho' you hate every individual in it. Adieu, mi Lor, be as much an English man as ever you can, w^ch^ is the only thing you want to be more and better than the generality of men.

"Believe me to be, with very great esteem,

"Your Lordship's oblig'd & obedient Serv^t^,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, September 7th*, 1761.

"MY LORD,—Tho' I hope to see your Lordship in a week's time I dare not approach you without having first answer'd your obliging Letter, yet let me assure you that this fear arises entirely from myself, and least my own heart should reproach

me for a want of due decorum & politesse; for as to any revenge your Lordship might take upon me for my omission, or any dread of your doing me an ill turn at Court, these considerations have no weight with me in the world. No, my Lord, I fear you in these respects no more than I hope in you; for tho' an unpreferr'd Clergyman like myself, or indeed any Clergyman except the Abp. of Canterbury only, has or ought to have some temporal as well as spiritual hope, yet I own, as to myself, I shall never place mine in your Lordship, & less now than ever.

"You may if you please call yourself the noted Lord N.; you may boast of the politeness, the obligingness, the friendliness, the respectfulness, the affectionateness, w^ch^ the world shews you; all that I have to say is that if the world does so, it is a more shortsighted & halfwitted world than I ever thought it before. And yet I never thought highly of it, ever since the time I saw the Devil kick it about like a football, in the frontispiece of Quarles's Emblems, a book I studied much in my infancy, and w^ch^ I recommend now to your Lordship, instead of those *Contes Moraux* and *au quelle Contes* that take up so much of your precious time. But the reason this *Etourdie* of a world gives for shewing your Lordship all this distinction diverts me exceedingly: 'Because the King has sent your Father to bring over the

Queen.' Let us examine a little how the world reasons on this head. It may be reduc'd into the following syllogisms:—

"Whoever fetches the Queen over must be well at Court.

"Lord H. fetches the Queen over.

"Ergo, Lord H. must be well at Court.

"Lord N. is Lord H.'s son & heir.

"Lord H. is well at Court.

"Ergo, Lord N. must be well at Court.

"Now in this last conclusion lies the fallacy, as I shall fully prove, not by logic but poetry, when I publish my Ode on Filial Affection, w^ch^ cannot be finished before my Ode on Heroic Valour. . . .

"Your faithful & devoted Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Jan.* 15*th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,—I take for granted Lord Delawarr has informed your Lordship of the multiplication of Dignitys lately conferr'd upon me; they come so very suddenly that I have not had time to order Butler to make me a Chariot; I therefore take the liberty to desire your Lordship would order yours to wait for me next Tuesday evening, at the 'Dog & Porridge-pot' in Hockley-in-the-Hole; where, after taking a slight repast on fry'd cow heel, & true Roman Purl, I intend to make my publick entrance into the City

of London. As I pass thro' Covent Garden I intend to stop at the Milliners (I forget her name), where from a fair balcony decorated with Blue Sattin & Blond Lace, or at least Trolly, I expect that Lady Cecilia West should appear with a speech handsomely penn'd *en double entendre*, compos'd by the said Milliner, upon wch I shall let down the right glass of my chariot window & give three short coughs of assent.

"As I pass by the Bedford Coffee House I expect that the wits there with their speaker, Mr. Loydd, will issue forth in a body & tell me that altho' I have borrow'd your Lordship's peacock's feathers, I am nothing more than a mere crow, & versify Esop's fable on the occasion; if this should be the case, I let down the left glass of the chariot window, & with all my lyric fury collected cry out 'Odi profanum Vulgus.' This will be as much as I think I ought to say on the occasion; otherwise I could remonstrate with them, that if I have no right to the tail of your Lordship's peacock, I have a strict right to its throat. For being the precentor, that is to say first singer, of a great Cathedral, what squall except a peacock's can equal mine? Thus I suppose myself fairly out of Covent Garden and its purlieus; I then proceed to Hanover-square, where I purpose to sup with Lord Delawarr on broil'd spratts, with two *hors d'œvers* ('tis all wrong spelt) of oysters

for your Lordship. The next morning the said chariot carries me to St. James's to kiss the King's hand, and here it will serve me in excellent stead, for being gilt, as I am told it is, *en traineau*, it will shew that I have been in Germany, & therefore the most proper of all other Chaplains to escort the King when ever he is forc'd to see his German dominions. The consequence of this is (as it were by divine right) a Bishoprick, the rest of the consequences Lady Cecilia herself will tell you if she's in a good humour.

"Trusting to find your Lordship's chariot and train at the 'Dog & Porridge-pot' aforesaid at the time appointed, I rest,

"My Lord,

"Your Lordship's most oblig'd, most devoted,

"and most obedient Servant,

"W. MASON."

"*York, June 9th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,— . . . . You cannot imagine how much my spleen is increas'd against the French nation ever since the Peace was concluded. While we were beating them, I kept in tolerable terms of charity towards them; but now, whether it be out of a desire of being unlike other people, or from some other laudable motive, wch I cannot *entamme*, I hate & detest them; on this account I desire you to make my *tres respectieux compli-*

mens to Monr. Condamine, & tell him he is a fat & a sot, a greater charlatan than Chevalier Taylor, & much more impertinent than even his own impertinent countrymen ever dared to be before; a Suffolk-street bawd attempts to cheat him & therefore the English nation are savages; & he has the effrontarie to tell them so, a rascally son of a bitch! if I was not in Orders I would come to town on purpose to pull him by the nose; pray desire Lord Delawarr to do it for me, if your Lordship is afraid of hurting your own fingers. The fellow comes here to enquire about the longitude I suppose, & yet boasts that the English language is unknown to him. Does he expect Mr. Harrison will talk French to him? I hope the honest mechanic has too much self-reverence to debase his tongue with such fripery prate; let him go home like a fool as he came, & write more lies about the River of the Amazons.

"I have not half unburthen'd myself of my just indignation, however I will stop here, knowing full well I have said enough to inflame your Lordship's patriotic heart, & to excite you to treat such a coxcomb in the manner he deserves, therefore I expect in return for this that your Lordship will send me *Le nes de* Monr. De la Condamine (for it will come off at the first tweak) in the same sort of pickle that the French Ambassadress (I forget her name[a]) pickled her husband in.

"I ought to say something of a certain personage who, by the courtesy of us savages, is called *His Grace*, but I will only thank your Lordship for the friendly part you acted in that matter, & leave him to his own punishment, a rattle brain'd head & a fat concubine. Lord, how horribly English I am in my phraseology!

"Had I writ to your Lordship before the masquerade I should have advised you to have appear'd there in a full bottomed wig & a gilt truncheon, like an old beau that has a mind to seem a hero, I think it would have become you mightily. Dear Lady Mary! Who would not have risked his constitution, as far as a *G——a simplex*, to have been acquainted with her? Pope you know went further, for all the world reads that line litterally,—

'P—d by her love & libell'd by her hate.'

"I will follow your Lordship's example & not subscribe my name to this Letter; indeed I think it would be most prudent to burn this and not write another, as you keep all my letters, and for my soul I cannot write prudently when I write to your Lordship; I beg, however, of Posterity when they read it to treat it with as much candor as they can; wch they cannot do unless they are as much mine as I am your Lordship's

"Sincerely devoted Friend."

[a] "I recollect it, Madame de Cambise."

"*Aston, December 1st*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship's letter, dated Wimbledon Park, June 16th, concluding with these remarkable words, 'for a *good* woman as a companion is a bad thing,' lies before me unanswer'd, & I am in great doubt whether I should not burn it unanswer'd. 'Tis true when I received it the sentence did not strike me with any great abhorrence; but now I am of opinion that nothing in Wilkes's Essay on Woman can be more diabolical. Ask me not what has occasioned this change of sentiment. 'Procul esto profane!' (you know Latin enough to construe the exclamation), as I said before, to Lord Delawarr, you never shall see her while you've a nose on your face, or a solitaire round your neck. No, my Lord, go to your *dames de qualité*, with their bouderies, their agaceries, their coquetteries, their bitcheries, and when you've amus'd yourself with them *de votre façon*, turn them over to Stonehewer for the grosser part of the affair; but hope not ever to behold the fair, the chaste, the inexpressive she. I will, however, suffer Ariosto[b] to give you a little part of her description:—

'Bianca neve è il bel collo, et e'l petto latte;
Il collo è tondo, il petto colino e largo:
Due pome acerbe, e pur d'avorio fatte,
Vengono e van come onda al primo margo,
Quando piacevolo aura il mar combatte.'

[b] Canto vii. Stanz. xiv., Orlando Furioso.

"Except the single epithet *largo*, this hits her to a hair. *Mais parlons d'autres choses.* The time now approaches w^ch your Lordship fixed for honouring me with a visit at Aston. I don't doubt but you hold your resolution, the weather, the roads, everything conspires to make you keep it. My Parsonage also, w^ch I have just began to inhabit, will afford you all the agreable incommodities *pour tuer ennui* that you can imagine. A hard Windsor chair will be your only footwheel, and black leg'd chickens on pewter dishes your choisest *Grand chere;* excellent ale into the bargain, & not bad port, tho' a little thickened by removing. Come, therefore, if you dare!

"Had you come lately to York, when I gave a public breakfast to Lady Bingley, you would have seen me in a different point of view, apropos to Lady Bingley: she 'adores Lord Newnham, so unlike the young men of quality one sees now-a-days, has quite a passion for operas; etches charmingly; has made her a present of all his charming etchings, w^ch she has fram'd & hung up in Bramham Hall.' This puts me in mind that I must have two compleat sets, one for Aston & another for York, therefore pray bring them with you, or let me have them when I come to town.

"My book was to have come out before Xtmas, but my bookseller has beg'd to postpone the pub-

lication till Mr. Wilkes ceases to ingross the public attention, to w^ch^ request I have willingly condescended, not desiring to divert the public attention from so agreable an object. However, your Lordship may have a book when you please after the 10th, by sending the inclosed note for it; but you must positively not let it go out of your own hands, and, as I make no presents except to a few Authors who I pay in kind, you must not say I gave it you.

"Adieu, *mon chere Milord*. Go to your House of Commons. I shall take up Ariosto, & when he has tir'd me, sigh a little after *mia bella Donzella;* drink her health in a sneaker of Rum punch, go to bed & dream of her. *Ah Cara! Cara!*

"Your Lordship's most devoted,

"W. M."

"*Reasons* pour & contre *relative to Lord Viscount Nuneham's intended expedition to France.*

"*Pour.*	"*Contre.*
He ought to go because he of all Englishmen in the world will be the least likely to be spoil'd by such an expedition, his Lordship being sufficiently spoil'd already.	It will throw the whole French nation into the nerves to see an Englishman more Frenchified than themselves, a thing not to be wished while we are in a state of peace.

2nd.	2nd.
He will save a great deal of money by this Tour, Pomade à la Duchesse & Eau Misterieux being 5 p^r^ cent. cheaper at Paris than in this Island.	He will disoblige his father, his mother, and aunt who reads the revelations.
3rd.	3rd.
His health will be greatly improv'd, as in France only he can find *de quoi manger.*	He will grow fat and have a pot belly.
4th.	4th.
He will have an opportunity of procuring a model for a new carriage the next winter, and may bring over a pot of Martin's best varnish to put upon it.	Next winter he won't have a single Guinea left to buy one withal. This objection answer'd by his being a Lord & the feasibility of post obits.
5th.	5th.
He will perhaps find some authentic records in the Maison d'Harcourt, by w^ch^ he will be enabled to carry the antiquity of his family anteriour to the reign of Clovis.	He will perhaps have the misfortune to find certain Frisseurs & Marchands de Linge bearing the same name & arms.
6th.	6th.
He will find the French ladies *ravissantes*, as they neither comb their hair nor wash their chemises.	The French ladies won't like him, as he cannot talk metaphysics, & is but about half a Deist.

7th.

The men of fashion will think him polite, because he will call all their Tabatieres *charmantes*.

7th.

He will be disgusted with their conversation, because he will find them more ignorant than he can pretend to be.

8th.

The *Gens de Lettres* will be much to his *gout*, as they are also *Gens de Société*.

8th.

These said *Gens* won't hold him in sufficient reverence when they find he has quarrell'd with Madame Mallock.

9th.

He will frequently attend High Mass at Notre Dame, and admire the politesse of ev'rybody's genuflexion at the Elevation.

9th.

He will run the risk of becoming for the second time a good Catholic.

10th.

He is sufficiently read in the works of Crebillion to be very adroit in the first openings, or (as I may call it) induction of an amour.

10th.

He is not, I fear, enough of a Jean Chaudois to execute the conclusion *à la derniere perfection.*

11th.

He will be delighted both with the dance and spectacle of the opera.

11th.

But he will be shocked with their singing and frighted with their *feu d'artifice.*

12th.

When presented at Court he will adore the strut of the French King, and think that nothing but an absolute Monarch can be graceful.

12th.

The said King will turn his *cul* upon him, having already read in Monr. de Gueray'sDispatches(I mean Madame's, for Monr. can't write) that his Lordship voted *contre son roi*.

13th.

To conclude: he will come home full of ennui, and in his heart fonder of his native country than he was when he went out.

13th.

But his vanity will put him under the continual mortification of keeping this a profound secret, and he will affect to despise Old England more than ever."

"*York, July* 14*th*, 1764.

"MY LORD,—By what I have written your Lordship will find how much I interest myself in every step wch your Lordship either takes or is about to take; in the present case I pretend not to advise any thing, I only have drawn up for your consideration such arguments for & against your Tour as seem'd to my poor judgment most momentous. Weigh them, therefore, I beseech your Lordship, very maturely in the scale of your best discretion, and take your part accordingly; I will only say that in acquitting myself of this act of friendship, I have taken all due pains to

divest myself of prejudice & partiality, and have selected, with the greatest care & candor, such reasons as seem'd to me most important, omitting a thousand others w^ch I thought too obvious or too trivial.

"I hope the labour I have taken will immediately entitle me to all your new etchings. By the way, I cannot help animadverting upon your reason for not sending them before, because I should apprehend that if you could convey me a letter by the York post, you might also convey me a parcel by the York carrier. Please, therefore, to roll them up in a double thick paper, & direct them by the said carrier to me at the Deanery, York. If your Lordship really goes to France, I shall expect also at your return a biddet of Vencenne China in a Japann'd frame *brodée à la Grèc*, so 卐卐卐, as a present for the future ——

"No room for my name."

ODE.

"O THOU who know'st, with science rare,
To elevate patrician hair,
And build the Greek *toupee*[c],
Louis! forgive that impious brute
Who dar'd of dress (Mon Dieu!) pollute
The GREATER MYSTERY[d].

"'Tis said, Monsieur, when first you saw
That group my pencil dar'd to draw,
You made the critique true.
'I thinks the awkard squinting elf
'Might full as well have draw'd himself,
'As Me, my Lord, or You.'

"I might, indeed, I own I might;
And should have done so with delight,
But Modesty deny'd.—
'Your Modesty—Diable! Peste!
'Poet & Painter you professt,
'And Parson too beside!

[c] A Latinism, *condere Carmen*. So Milton, *to* BUILD *the lofty Rhyme*.

[d] The mysteries of the toilette, like the Elusinian, may with great propriety be divided into Greater & Lesser. The Lesser include the mystery of buckling the shoe, tying the garter, &c. These may be, & frequently are, celebrated by a common servant in livery, but all above these, particularly the *accomodage*, the greatest of them all, & w^ch is here by a poetical periphrasis term'd the elevation of patrician hair, is of the Greater kind; there the *valet de chambre* is the proper & only Mystagogue.

"'These trades my Lord & I know well
'Are all as impudent as hell[e],
'And so says Francis Horace;
'Francis has prov'd it to a hair—
'Come, Monsieur Maçon, pray prepare
'A better reason for us.'

"A better reason—take it then—
Had I attempted with this pen
To draw myself—d'ye see—
Each creature breathing had mistook
My squinting leer, & roguish look,
For Wilks and Liberty."

"*Queen-street, March 30th*, 1768.

"MY LORD,—I have the chagrin to find that tho' your Lordship accepted my drawing[f] with your usual candour, it has had the misfortune to displease Mon^r. Louis, I have therefore endeavour'd to apologize for my fault in the inclosed Ode, w^ch I beg your Lordship will be so kind to present to him at some happy moment when he

[e] *Pictoribus atque Poetis quid libet audendi.* So sings Horatius Flaccus, but the author here quoted added *Parsonibus*, not perhaps in words but always in deeds.

[f] The drawing was an excellent caricature of Lord Nuneham at his toilette, with two French hairdressers cutting his hair, & his *valet de chambre*, Louis (a Swiss), standing behind, with Bottarelli the Opera poet, to whom he is reading, on a chair on one side. Louis having taken offence at his portrait said, "he might as well have draw'd himself squintering" (meaning squinting). The hair was then dressed high, & called a *toupet à la Grèc*.

has arranged your *Coiffure au mieux.* I flatter myself that your Lordship's eloquence added to these verses may in time appease his resentment; in the meantime I remain (*très mortifié*),

"Your Lordship's
"Most obsequious Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, September* 26, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I return you the plan of your Flower Garden with another trac'd from it, in w^ch I have drawn a gravel walk round it, & alter'd the form of the beds, & also (with a horrible green wash) notified what ought to be grass. It looks so ugly on paper that I doubt not you will throw it into the fire. You may do so with all my heart, only before you do, take one hint from it, w^ch indeed is all it is meant to give, viz^t. that there should be due space of grass for walking on (not less, for instance, than the breadth of six feet) between *every* part of *every* clump or bed. As to the shape of these beds you may vary them as you please, in such a way as to have the best effect from the principal buildings. Your eye on the spot must direct that; my plan only means to shew you in what manner, not the precise thing, for I dare say, if I was to superintend the work myself, I should adhere closely to the plan in nothing but the circuit of walk. You will please to observe that the

black dots • denote detached flowering shrubs, such as Arbuti, small Magnolias, &c., and perhaps if your Lordship was to sink an orange tub here & there, or Myrtle, covering it with turf, it might do well in those places; I think I saw this done at Lady Dashwood's, w^ch^ had a good effect. I have nothing more to add on this subject, except that if you follow my plan exactly, as you say you will, you will certainly do wrong. You must consider it merely as a hint, & nothing more; as such, perhaps it may have some little utility, if you can overlook the awkard coloring. I blush to think how Walter Clerk will despise it, & yet it does not look quite so like a blistering plaister as the original, 'tis more of the mellilot hue, to be laid on after the other, as it should in the order of cure.

* * * * * *

"I shall hope to hear from your Lordship as the great work proceeds; Mr. Whitehead says, if you turn it into grass it will be all poachy; this I cannot conceive, considering how the ground falls, & the capability of drains. My best respects attend Lady Nuneham and Miss Fauquier: believe me to be,

"My Lord,
"With great sincerity y^rs^,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Nov. 1st*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I have only just now rec^d^ your Lordship's letter, but hope this will reach you soon enough to inform you that you must not go by Sheffield, not only because it is 7 miles further, but I verily believe a worse road. Your way will be from Chesterfield thro' Stowely (pronounce, Staley) & Balbro on the Worsop road. Very soon after you are thro' Balbro you take the turnpike from Mansfield to Rotherham, on the left, w^ch^ brings you to Aston.

"I will say nothing about the ennui you talk of, I know, however, if there be any extant while you are at Aston it must be of your own importation, for I am well convinc'd you always carry a *petit Batterie de Cuisine* to cook it in on your rural expeditions, & make it as conveniently for your own use as you do your coffee. Be this as it may, should ever the ennui be on my side I shall not let you stir on the third day, because, if you come as you propose, that third day will be Sunday; and my parishioners have been so frequently shock'd with seeing a great Lord & Governor[g] travel on that day, that if I suffer your Lordship to do the same, they will conclude the whole Peerage of England to be a collection of *Esprit forts*, or, in their language, Sabbath-breakers,

[g] Lord Harcourt.

& ripe for the gallows, to w^ch^ that none of them may ever arrive is the hearty prayer of your Lordship's most faithful Servant,

"W. MASON.

"My best respects attend Lady Nuneham; you may assure yourself, my Lord, that no Nabob or country parson shall disturb your quiet here."

"*Aston, November 6th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I presume you have rec^d^ e'er this *mon Chart du Jardin à la mellilot*, w^ch^ I take for granted pleases you *au merveil*. In reward for this service I must beg you to grant me one favour, viz^t^. a recommendatory letter or two to France for my friend M^r^. Foljambe, who is now on his way thither from Vienna. You know I cannot ask this favour of Lord Holdernesse, therefore I write to your Lordship & M^r^. Walpole; all that the young man wants is a recommendation to any body that will introduce him to a few fandangos. He is no philosophe, but a good genteel figure, w^ch^ will not discredit your recommendation, even if you recommend him to any *Femme de condition*. He was almost as well *coiffé* as your Lordship when he went out of England, & I trust he has not liv'd three months at Vienna for nothing. As to his *Parlez vous*, I question whether 'tis much better than mine. But then his family is very antient,

and his arms are,  as you see, a very FOUL LEG, wounded, I will warrant, in the Holy Wars. If this will not tempt you either to recommend him or get him recommended, I know not what will. I have only one word more to add, w^ch^ is, that if you accord me this favour you will please to invellope what you send as soon as may be *à Mon^r^. Mon^r^.* Foljambe, *chez* Mess^rs^. Tourton & Baner, Banquiers, Place des Victoires, Paris. . . . .

"Believe me to be at all times, my good Lord,

"Yours most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, December 2nd*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—'Fidget' and I are hardly yet recover'd from the chagrin of our disapointment. Lady Frippery was never more anxious about the coming of Lady Bab Frightful than we were for a whole week on acct. of your Lordship. 'Molly' (says I to a pretty tight kind of a chambermaid that I have), 'I forbid you to wash any of the rooms.' 'Lord, S^r^,' says she, 'they are so dirty.' 'No matter, no matter, they are the more French for that.' A brother parson sends me a present of grapes from his hot house: 'Hang them up, Benjamin,' says I, 'in the pantry for our desert when his Lordship comes.' 'The rabbits that are

there already hanging up for an Ho—go will make them stink.' 'So much the better, 'twill give them an heterogeneous flavor, & his Lordship likes every thing that has a *soupçon* of heterogenosity.' In short, there is no end of telling the consultations, the preparations, the expectations, that all came to nothing on this occasion.

"I know no amends that you can make me, unless your Lordship promises to correspond with me frequently during this long winter, and keeps your promise with punctuality, for I feel already that I shall hardly be able to weather it without all kinds of possible amusement, if the wind blows and my house smokes as horribly as it has done for these last three weeks.

"And so you see little Mr. Colman and old fumbling Dr. Arne have committed a rape on the body of my poor daughter Friddy[h]. Don't you pity her & me exceedingly. Lord bless us! they say she is in very high keeping, & has eight *femmes de chambre* to attend her, & fourteen more to sing her asleep. And what is more extraordinary than all is that all these 2 & 20 females are pure & immaculate virgins who never stir'd out of the purlieus of Covent Garden.

"Now till this moment I must confess I had such a prejudice against *femmes de chambre* in general, that I never thought any of them were

[h] "Elfrida," a play written by Mason.

better than they should be except Mr. Bradshaw's sister, who attends Lady Holdernesse, & a certain Lady whom I had once the honour to travel with in a stage coach, & who formerly attended Lady Nuneham. But I find I have been in a gross error, & therefore, if ever I become reconcil'd to my reprobate daughter, I mean to borrow one of the handsomest of her *suivantes* to keep me warm these winter nights. Yet I keep this intention of mine secret from my own family at present, for fear Molly should be jealous, & Molly, let me tell you, has a pair of as good black eyes as the best of them.

"They say Garrick has been in a great fidget about this representation of Elfrida, & says, had he thought it would have been agreeable to Mr. Mason he would have brought it on upon his stage, &c. Now this I know will have such an effect on your Lordship that you will go incontinently to Covent Garden, with handkerchief & orange by your side, and say that Mrs. Hartley is the best tragic actress that ever appeared since Mrs. Pritchard; that the very soul of harmony breaths in all Dr. Arne's compositions; and that since the days of the Mingotti, no body could sing a note like Miss Catley.

"I shall direct this to Leicester House, tho' I suppose the meeting of the Parliament has hardly brought you up to Town, yet I take for granted it will be sent forward to you.

"Pray is it not possible that the Monsr. Sidni mentioned in those letters might be the other (who I think was Algs. brother), a Courtier, & consequently a rogue. If this could be prov'd, O how I should rejoice! but not before Sr. John D. had published his trash. Now really & sincerely, if your Lordship will correspond with me during this winter, I will be the most punctual & fantastical of all correspondents. I beg my best respects to Lady Nuneham, profoundest compliments to Miss Fauquier, all sorts of civilitys to Mr. Jerningham, & (in spite of my cursed Ennui) a friendliness of old date to Mr. Whitehead. I take for granted the Earl & Countess of Jersey have left Nuneham, else I would invent a proper phrase for them, & would also add a period to the 4th page of my letter, in wch I would say something decent touching my opinion of Memoiselle Manon's virginity.

"Your Lordship's most faithful, &c.,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, January 14th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... You ask me for one of the most difficult things in the world, when you ask me for the design of a garden seat. All sorts of trelliages are in my mind abominable, & nothing else is tolerably cheap. If one could get

ivy or woodbine to creep as fast & in the same manner that one would have them, the matter would soon be managed by any front of rough stone, but as years upon years must come over our heads before they produce their effect, I have too much respect for your Lordship's patience to make the attempt. Why not then buy some little plain canvass thing at Knightsbridge, & paint it green, or rather olive, & let it speak for itself, 'I am only useful, & was never meant to be handsome, but pray don't think me hideous?' or if you rather chuse it to speak verse, it may speak thus:—

"'Beneath my canvass roof reclin'd
You'll sit secure from sun & wind,
But if to yon south-west ye turn ye,
Quiet will roast, & Flora burn ye[1].
Tho' I'm not half so fine as either
I'm better shelter in hot weather.'

"What would you have? If this is not almost as simple an inscription as I lately writ at the request of the Premier for General Wolfe, and wch had not the good fortune (as I fancy) to please greater folks than he, I do not know what an inscription should be; now you must know when I was requested as above I return'd for answer, that if I was not convinc'd in my own mind that a very short, plain, classical inscription, either

[1] Alluding to a seat dedicated to "Quiet" and to a statue of Flora.

in English or Latin *prose*, would have much more dignity in it than any *verse*, I should willingly make an attempt. This opinion of mine was approv'd, & I was by a second letter from Cooper desir'd to write one; I did so; *le voila*:—

"'To the Memory of
&c.,
Conqueror of Canada,
Who died in the hour of Victory
date . . .
The King, Parliament & People
of Great Britain
dedicate this monument.'

Well! it was allow'd to have great dignity in it, but as Wolfe only conquer'd the Capitol of Canada, Sr. Jeffry Amherst might be angry, and now I believe the vote of the House is to be on the Monument at full length, & afterwards something in what they call elevated *prose*. Pray tell Mr. Walpole this anecdote; I have just written to him & had not room to mention it. After all, Whitehead's last new year's Ode has much more merit with me than even my own inscription, for this plain reason, because there is not one word of King in it.

"Believe me, my Lord,
"Very sincerely yours,
"W. MASON.

"My best respects to Lady Nuneham."

"BULLE.

"To our dearly beloved Simon, Cardinal, of Nuneham, our chosen Legate for the purposes hereafter mentioned, taste, & critical acumen.

"Whereas our well-beloved son, Edward de Jerningham, of the order of Poets *en solitaire*, has sent unto us a certain Poem called Faldoni and Teresa, humbly acknowledging our poetical supremacy & infallibility, & also praying our plenary indulgence for the same; & whereas, according to the irrefragable taste given unto us, we have, at our learned leisure, perused the said Poem, and have found, or candidly thought we have found, certain touches of Nature & strokes of Pathos in it. We do, therefore, by this our Poetical Bull, grant not only to the said son Edward, but to ev'ry well dresst Gentleman, whose good fortune it shall be to find any fine Lady shedding tears over the said poem, our full & free permission to kiss the said Lady, and we absolve him from all duty of confessing to his confessor in that he has done so; and her, on her part, of confessing to her confessor that she has been so done to; provided always that the kiss so given and received be only the *osculum charitatis*, or kiss of charity, & that the two parties proceed no further.

"And whereas we also find in the said Poem certain rhymes, heretofore believed to be false &

heretical, such as *resolve, dissolve; form, perform; repair, dispair*, &c., for w^ch we suppose our indulgence is more immediately pray'd for, we do by this our Bull grant unto our son Thomas our plenary indulgence for these, & all other sins of the like nature; and, by the power in us invested of transubstantiating bad rhymes into good, & good rhymes into bad, we do here solemnly pronounce the said rhymes to be orthodox, genuine, & *della crusca*, and we damn, & by this our poetical fulmination do damn to the deepest pit of Grub-street infamy, all writers of Reviews & Magazines, whether critical or monthly, town or country, Covent Garden, Westminster, & Macaroni, &c., &c., if they or any of them do presume to call the said rhymes in question. And this our poetical curse we extend to all printers, publishers, & readers of them, to them & their heirs for ever.

"And if any of our tuneful predecessors, sitting as we now do in the chair of Shakespeare, shall have declared any doctrine contrary to this, our will is that Samuel Johnson, or some able critic, do explain the same to be consonant to this our orthodox doctrine, & if this cannot be done, then we declare theirs to be null & void, as their infallibility (w^ch we acknowledge) could only extend to the time being. And whereas our said son has humbly requested our tuneful portrait, sitting in our said chair, & looking as if it was thinking,

our will is that Prior Stonehewer do deliver unto him a copy of the same; and our further will is that you our Cousin & Cardinal, Simon de Nuneham, do tye with your own hands a knot of rose-color'd ribband over the said portrait, and that the Lady Abbess of Nuneham do present unto the said Edward of the order of Poets *en solitaire*, a Bouquet of her choicest Hyacinths (they not having been worn above 6 times at her Almack's or Opera vespers, & while they continue still fresh & blooming), & this said Bouquet we command him to place underneath our said portrait, in a vase of *Porcelaine du Roy*, in token of that odor of sanctity & sweet savour in w^ch we hold him and his poetry.

"Given at our Vatican near the Church of S^t. Mary & All Saints, in Aston, this 17^th day of February, & 4^th of our Pontificate.

"Settle the xv^th,
"Scribbler of Scribblers.

"*Undersigned*,
"FIDGET."

"*Aston, February 10th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I have had another letter from Cooper about the Epitaph, & have answered him by saying, 'that he and Lord North apply to a wrong shop for elevated prose, they must go

to Sr. John Dalrymples;' & thither I trust they will go.

"I had seen both Mr. Gray's Song & Beattie's Hermit before you was so obliging as send them, but did not know the occasion of the former's being written. As to the latter, I like it extreamly, but yet I think it *manqué*, something ought to be added concerning the immortality of the soul; and this, trust me, I do not say *en prêtre*, but *en honnette Homme*. As it is, David Hume might have writ it, if he could; but it is by no means worthy the Vanquisher of David, I mean only in point of sentiment, for as to all the rest it is pathetic & excellent.

* * * * * *

"My dear Lord, I beg you to keep up your spirits, and if you can't laugh at the world when you are out of it, go into it again by all means; I assure you I mean to do so if my risible faculties leave me for living out of it, but this at present I do not feel, tho' I can at times be as *cursedly ennuie* (as the Laureat says) as your Lordship yourself, but in spirits & out of them I am always yours,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 21st*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—The post after I answer'd your last, I receiv'd another curious poetical treat from

you. You are exceeding kind to send me these sort of *bon-bons* to sweeten the bitterness of my village solitude. I cannot help owning (tho' my loyalty crimsons my cheek while I own it) that I did frequently smile when I read that wicked Poem; I hear Mrs. Ann Pitt calls it abominably clever, & I adopt her expression; I am told too that Charles Fox says it is written by the Author of the 'Bath Guide,' and I adopt his opinion. However, it is certainly better written than his Epistle to Buckhorse. The same intelligence adds that Mr. I. Pitt lays the brat at my door, but says I got it after I had taken a cup too much. Your Lordship knows me too well to suspect either my loyalty or sobriety, & therefore I think I need say nothing to prove my innocence on this head, or to induce you to clear me of so dreadful an imputation. But your Lordship says you like it exceedingly; if you do, I suppose it is cheifly because you think such taste, such times, and such politics as ours deserve rather to be laugh'd at than seriously satirized, and in this I agree with you; we want a Rabelais rather than a Boileau. . . . .

"Your Lordship's

"Most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Melton, October 6th*, 1777.

"MY LORD,—I deferr'd answering your Lordship's most obliging letter till I could speak with some certainty about the time when I could wait upon you at Nuneham; I was oblig'd to come here to the Dean of York's first, & on the 8th I must meet a person on business at home. Lord John Cavendish has presst me much to call upon him at his new purchase near Northampton, & Mr. Frederick Montagu and I are to set out from Papplewick for that place either on the 10th or 11th; our stay there will not be above two or three days, & then I mean to make the best of my way to Nuneham.

"But here starts up a difficulty: my maps tell me that Middleton is in the direct road from Northampton to Oxford; & a letter of Lady Jersey's from Chatsworth has told me that all the race of Clarendon are to be at Middleton, & my own heart & inclinations tell me that I would much rather read all Lord Clarendon's History of the Grand Rebellion, with the continuation, supplement, & state papers that vouch for the authenticity of the said History, than meet the living representatives of Clarendon at Middleton; therefore, what is to be done? Your Lordship must tell me in a letter directed to Lord John, at Billing, near Northampton, and point out a safe & convenient passage for me to Oxford, either by the

way of Exeter, Monmouth, & so up the Wye, or any other road you think most expeditious, or you must tell me that the Clarendons have 'granged' themselves at home again, & then I'll venture to Middleton.

"What more remains of your Lordship's most kind letter to answer cannot be answer'd with a bad pen in a cold room without a fire; for my very reverend host because it was very hot last week thinks it is very hot still, tho' there's a westerly wind fit to blow one over; but no matter, 'tis a fine day, for the sun shines. . . . .

"Your most truly affectionate
"& oblig'd Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*York, March 21st*, 1778.

"MY LORD,—Mr. Car has so much employment abroad that he is seldom at York. I have, however, had a conference with him, & the result is a plan wch, with its accompaniments & two variations of the hall, will come to your Lordship by the York Coach about the time with this letter. Before I enter on an explication of the design, I must apologize for the want of a chappel in it, wch Mr. Car thinks inadmissable. However, when we build Courtenay Castle upon the hill[k], as it

[k] This is the spot where Carfax now stands, which took the place of the projected castle as an object from the house.

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will be further from the house than the present church is, it will be surely the most eligible place for your domestic chappel, and there, too, we can exert our Gothic phantazys with more propriety than in the neighbourhood of Steward's Grecisms.

"The elevation on white paper shews the junction of the wings to the house as well as the new Loggio. This Loggio is suppos'd to be open from the top of the basement to the top of the columns, in some sort like including the present stone steps under a portico, but giving more space to the hall as appears by the plan entituled General; but in this your Lordship must make this distinction, that this plan delineates the base story with respect to the wings and the principal story in the body of the house.

"The kitchen, w^ch^ is meant to rise two storys, ought to have been plac'd on the other side, in order to connect it with the intended *bas cour*. Car, not knowing the situation, thought it would be more convenient to the dining-room as it is plac'd on the plan, but let the two wings change sides, and then the kitchen will occupy the space of the present library & the rooms under it. The dinner will be carried cross the Loggio to the little staircase adjoining the dining-room, w^ch^, considering that your *Gens* have most of them long legs, is no great matter. Car engages that the doors w^ch^ he shall make in the passage

will take off the smell, on w^ch^ side soever the kitchen be plac'd. But this I fear you will not believe, nor indeed do I entirely; yet I am sure it will be a less nuisance than it is at present.

"Plan B unshaded, w^ch^ ought to have been A, shews the base part of the staircase; d^o^ shaded, the entrance from the Loggio. Plan A varies the idea of the Loggio, by shutting it up & making both staircase & hall on the inside of the house. This will not alter the appearance of the front, but as I think will rather improve it, for as the four Ionic columns are meant to be whole ones, and just only isolated from the wall, the portico front will have an effect similar to that charming front of Lord Strafford's, w^ch^ I think derives its principal beauty from that single circumstance, having all the grace of a portico without its darkning the inside.

"The *Appliqué* is somewhat similar to Lord Leicester's staircase, & will admit of various ornaments; but M^r^. Car thinks the space too small for an idea of this sort, therefore I fear we shall have no nitch for Jupiter, and if we had it would stop the way to the present housekeeper's octagon room[l]. Car has drawn a line in the principal plan thro' the dark closet near the staircase into the present octagon saloon, in w^ch^ place he thinks a jibb[m]

[l] The present billiard-room.

[m] This jibb-door was made 55 years afterwards by Archbishop Harcourt.

door would be useful for the servants to come thro' instead of passing thro' the drawing-room or intended library; in this case the Madona would hang on that jibb door.

"Thus, my Lord, I have explain'd *de mon mieux* the aforesaid plans. Car thinks the expence of this alteration in either way will be moderate, as the present work'd stone will be us'd again & brought forward to the new wall, so that little new stone will be wanting, save for the columns.

"I heartily congratulate you on your brother's return, I trust he will let a certain person take the next Percy himself: this allusion is not my own, I learn'd it of the Chamberlain of her Majesties household. . . . .

"Your Lordship's

"Most faithfully devoted,

"W. MASON.

"The inlarg'd elevation is only added to give a clearer idea of the proportions of the columns, &c.

"Mr. Car means to be in Town about May, when he will wait on your Lordship, if he finds our present labors come up in any sort to your ideas, but I shall hear from you first[n].

"For my own part I cast my prophetic glance not far into futurity, & there read that we are en-

[n] Car's plans were excellent, but not carried out on account of their costliness.

deavoring to improve a mansion for the Marquess de La Fayette, who will have Blenheim for his *palazzo*, and Nuneham for one of his *maissons* or *chateau de chasse*."

"*York, April 20th*, 1778.

"MON CHER MI LOR,—I ought to have told your Lordship a forthnight ago that I had seen Mr. Car, & read to him so much of your Lordship's letters as was necessary, and that he has no doubt (when he has talk'd with you, & seen the house) he can contrive all matters to your mind, & at a moderate expence. He himself intimated the feasibility of changing the present library into a bed-chamber, as you mention in your last, just recd. He has no idea whatever of touching the great room or any of the apartments that now stand, & even would wish to keep the present dining-room for a dining-room still. He says also that the present stone in front will easily be pull'd down & refitted for his new purpose, but he says all this in shocking Yorkshire dialect: he calls columns kullums, & will absolutely disgust your southern ear whenever he has the honour of an interview with you. If you can get over this (wch I know, & Michael knows, is impossible), you will find him wonderfully adroit in expediency, & a greater master in Architectural ways & means than Lord North, or even Sr. Gray Cooper, is in

political. I inclose a paper he left with me, wch he wishes you would order any common workman you have to make a drawing after, to be ready against he comes to Town, wch he means to do the first week in May with Mr. Mellish. He is now absent, but will return here on the 1st, and has promis'd then to see me; therefore, as there is time to write me another letter, you will please to let me hear from you if you have any thing more to say before you see him. My advice is that you should carry him down (incog. travelling like my Lord Bute) to Nuneham; this would not deprive the nation of your Parliamentary Services above three days (& the Nation, God bless it, I dare say would part with all Parliamentary services very willingly, & still wag its tail at its master & look as pleas'd as druid) but this in a parenthesis. I say if you would do this, the figur'd plan might be ordered to be ready for his inspection, and thus provided, he would be enabled to do more in half a day in fully contriving all you want or wish (changing his plan every half hour in correspondence with your wants & your wishes) than he could do by a thousand letters, or twenty *tête a têtes* in the room at Harcourt House, where hangs my tuneful portrait.

"In your two former letters I concluded by laying so much stress on a whole wing for yourself and your Lady, that your principal view in

making the propos'd alterations was to do like other Lords & Ladys, & make the house itself unnessesary to be liv'd in & only to be seen, but your last letter seems much more reasonable. I verily beleive if you continue in this humour, Car will make you an excellent house under the price you seem to fix, but then (as I don't intend to say a word to him about that matter) ask him, after he has settled the plan to your mind, what he thinks it may be executed for, and if he says for £2,000 or £2,050, call it in your own idea £5,000, & you will not be dissapointed. I say not this to depreciate my friend Car, but to shew you that this is the case in all Architectural or even common building estimates°.

"God bless you for your protest. Go on protesting and protesting to the end of the very short chapter of our national freedom, or rather our national existence, for the former chapter is already ended. Your protests will do no good, but posterity will learn by them that you was an honest man, & sincerely prized as such by

"Your affectionate Servant,

"W. MASON.

"My best & kindest respects to Lady Harcourt."

° This was a largér sum than Lord Harcourt chose to spend; though half a century later Archbishop Harcourt spent £40,000 in additional building, and £30,000 in additional furniture for the house: doubtless Car's scheme was the best; Sir R. Smirke was responsible for the Archbishop's alterations.

"*York, April 24th*, 1778.

". . . . . I am very sorry that Mr. Whitehead would not take the hint I gave him, and set his next Ode & all his future Odes to the tune of the Black Sanctus; the measure is so excellent and so clear, too, to the understanding of the hearers. You will find it in Sr. John Hawkins' valuable Appendix to his more valuable History; it is also in a book called *Nugæ Antiquæ*. I send two Stanzas by way of a beginning, and I desire you will get them perform'd, in order to convince him what an effect such an Ode would have when all the chappel royal are join'd in its execution; but this effect will appear nothing without the original music.

1st.

"'Thou whom we yearly celebrate
In Birthday Odes right delicate,
And loyally do execrate
Yankees that scorn thy royal state.

2nd.

"'Now thou hast lost America,
Mind what thy subjects sing and say;
The tax on servants take away,
And that on houses too, we pray,' &c.

"I am certain an Ode written in this spirit, and sung in the antient orthodox canon, would have more effect than all the petitions & remonstrances

ever presented or that ever will be presented. And as there is nothing else left us to try, why not try this innocent experiment? . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"Most *devouée*,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, June 8th*, 1778.

"MON CHER MI LORD,— . . . . As far as the building a Bower goes, I think a man may indulge his Architectural fancy even in these wretched & villainous times, but not a jott further. I therefore seriously advise your Lordship, whether you be rich or poor, to postpone all more extensive operations.

"It is now morally impossible but that some great & decisive calamity must fall on this devoted nation, it cannot be too greatly calamitous for its deserts. Those only who have not contributed to the ruin (and these are very few in any party) will have the sad satisfaction to think that they suffer innocently—but suffer we all must. I write this under a self-conviction little less strong than the real spirit of prophecy.

* * * * * *

"I am somewhat consol'd to find that the Popery Bill setts many loyal hearts like your Lordship's & mine much at our ease. A man, it seems, who is possest of an estate because he is

a Protestant, has now no right of inheritance or possession if a Papist is nearer akin than he. 'Tis a mighty comfort to one's allegiance. But you'll say this is only the case when the matter has never been litigated. What? were fifteen & forty-five no litigations? I'll call in all the Scotch Councellors to prove the affirmative. Strange that there was no proviso to except certain persons from that clause in the act! but I am confident it was left so on purpose, & much good may it do them who mean to benefit by it. I fancy we never shall.

"Mr. Walpole, to whom I had mention'd my visit to Nuneham, & ask'd whether there was not a probability of my meeting him there, says there would be 'had he the least encouragement, but that he is a little suspicious he is not in the most perfect favour;' yet he holds this by no means positive, & says handsome things of your Lordship. I send you this by way of a hint, that you may either regard or not, as it suits your *un*simple & *un*complying temper; certainly he is as unsimple & uncomplying by Nature (or that *Art* w^ch^ stands for *Nature* in your Quality Characters) as any Lord in the land can be. But he seems a very Carr when he speaks on your subject; but mark me, I say only *seems*, for I would not for the world tell a lye about the matter.

"Pray lay me most humbly at the feet of that

Phœnix of a Countess your wife, for as Countesses, nay even as plain womankind go, I hold her to be a Phœnix; make much of such a treasure, if it be but by way of a rarity, as a mere Virtuoso would do, and as I keep an old Simons's broad piece of Oliver Cromwell. My paper is fill'd, and I am ever,

"Your Lordship's most cordially."

"*Aston, June 20th*, 1778.

"..... I HAVE infinite objections to being scrap'd, & I beg & intreat that you would put an absolute stop to that scheme. I refus'd S^r^. Joshua, who would have had a mezzotinto taken from his, and yet his is a likeness that would do me more credit with Posterity than Doughty's, w^ch^ makes me look like the Le Beck's head in the Strand. All my relations here who saw it at the Exhibition cry shame on it. You'll say they flatter me; no matter, I will not consent to it: observe I am positive.....

"My Lord, as always,
"W. M."

"*Aston, July 11th*, 1778.

"I SEE plainly by your Lordship's last that you wish me to be at Nuneham when Brown is there, that, relying on my conciliatory & soothing arts, you may have the pleasure of putting him out of

humour ev'ry moment, and of treating him *en grand Seigneur*, and yet for all that get all the good you can out of him, thro' the medium of my politesse. Be it so, I will wait on you in September, and stay with you till my Town winter commences, w^ch^ is about the time of your Lordship's summer solstice, that is to say the middle of October. . . . .

"Adieu."

"*Curzon-street, Thursday evening.*

"I AM greatly obliged to your Lordship for sending me so good an acc^t^. of Lady Harcourt by the fair Carry; in return I can send you a tolerable one of M^r^. Whitehead, to whom I made one of my first visits, tho' at the pain & peril (not of child-bearing, but) of seeing his guest, who told me I was grown grey-hair'd & intolerably fat, a sort of language that could not be very pleasing to ears that had so lately been invelloped in a Henri Quatre, and bore its flaunting honors with such agreable *agacerie*. But I thought the horrid creature below my notice, & turn'd my attention to his host, who, tho' he has not lost his cough, seems not worse for his ev'ry-day chaplain's dinners, and was even then returning to them like a dog to his vomit, or a sow to wallowing in the mire, but I am persuaded he likes it; *tant pire pour lui*.

* * * * * *

"I went also to S^r^. Joshua's, but the picture was still at Gaskell's for a second copy, & S^r^. Joshua desired me to tell his Lordship so, and to apologize for not writing himself. But Charles, who had more *empressement*, went (as he tells me) to Gaskell's, and likes my Lady better than either my Lord or the Colonel[p]; his own picture of my Lord had the misfortune to lose its last painted eyes by rubbing against the post chaise, but he says he can easily repair them. Stonehewer thinks it very like, in spite of my Lady.

"M^r^. W. is in a slight fit of the gout in Arlington-street, so I am in some hopes of escaping a visit to Strawberry (a truly Xtian hope). We are in high spirits for getting our East India men safe into harbour. . . . . .

"My Lord,

"Most sincerely yours,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Dec. 6th*, 1779.

"MY VERY GOOD LORD,— . . . . I will resume my pen to expostulate with you on your terrors of cold catching at the House of Lords. Do not I catch cold by going dayly to the Minster? and praying as I do six times ev'ry day in my life for our most religious and gracious King? 'Confounding his enemies;' 'turning the hearts of his

[p] This alludes to the fine family picture by Sir Joshua, which now hangs in the drawing-room at Nuneham.

rebellious subjects in America; saving him from secret conspiracies and open violences;' 'deprecating all those unhappy divisions that call down divine judgments upon us;' declaring that all his Councils are the wisest & the best that ever were or ever will be. Do not I do all this six times, nay, now that Parliament is met, eight times a day? and that in a stall where the cold north-west wind whistles round my head, even to the derangement of my fore-top.

"Yes, my Lord, I do. By my Precentorial dignity, I swear that I do: weigh then my situation with your own; and learn that the call of one's duty supercedes even the terrors of an ague. In the hope, therefore, that I shall hear no more complaints of the kind from you, I conclude with my best respects to Lady Harcourt.

"Your Lordship's truly devoted,
"W. MASON."

"*York, Jan. 8th*, 1780.

"MY LORD,—I should have thanked you sooner for your acct. of the Episcopal Fête, had I not been so fully employ'd, as you know; besides this, I had a story to send you in return, much too good for prose, & I had not a moment's time to versify it in till last night. And now that it is versified, I fear you will think it like most other things in verse, a Creature of Imagination,

whereas I assure you it is founded on a true fact, for wch I can bring a grave clergyman to be the voucher.

"Count Smelt actually had a present of a watch from his gracious master, about which he boasted 'that he had never alter'd the hands since he recd. it, & never meant so to do, as it had been set by the royal personage who gave it him;' this he said several months after he recd. it, and when it was at least four hours wrong. With this explanatory hint I send you to my tale, wch I call a moral one, because, like all *Contes Moraux*, it has no morality in it.

"Your Lordship will receive with this another newspaper, wch contains the rest of our York Debate. But I hope soon to send you the Count's speech in full, with notes *variorum*, in wch I believe this very story will (in prose) be inserted; as to this in verse I desire you will shew it to Mr. Walpole & such other persons as your no virtue shall direct you to; by wch I mean only such as you think will not suppose I imitate the style of M. Macgreggor, an author who, tho' I venerate him, I would not on this occasion chuse to come in competition with, and indeed I think our two modes of writing are as dissimilar as Dryden's & Prior's, or Pope's & Gay's. . . . .

"Your Lordship's most faithful,
"W. MASON."

"KING STEPHEN & HIS COURTIER:

A Moral Tale.

"AVAUNT, ye vile disloyal throng!
Who think a Monarch may do wrong.
I'll prove, in ev'ry rebel's spite,
That all he touches must do right.

"'King Stephen was a worthy peer,
His breeches cost him half-a-crown;'
In w^ch a watch this King did wear,
All in a fob of fustian brown.
'Heavens!' (crys Dean Mills in sage amaze[q])
'A Watch—and worn in Stephen's days?
This anecdote quite diss-agrees
With Holingshead's Antiquities.
Watches when first invented; seek 'em
In Brother Trusler's *vade mecum.*
See here! *first brought to England* even
So late as fifteen ninety seven.
Now Stephen reign'd—'
'I care not when;
Doctor, you interupt my pen:
'Tis rude to check a staunch old Tory
Thus at the outset of his Story.
If other folks me tripping catch
About King Stephen and his watch,
'Tis meet for you to wink, I ween,
You—a grave Churchman, nay, a Dean.'

[q] "This character is only introduced as Grand Master at present of Antiquarianility, if I may be allowed to coin the expression."

"With watch in fob (as I have said)
Our good King strutted o'er the mead;
And met a Courtier, slim, yet sleek,
With foretop high, & smirking cheek,
Supple his loins, his hamstrings weak.
Who crouch'd & stretch'd his beak before,
Like Goose approaching a barn door.
'Hold up thy head!' King Stephen cry'd,
'And walk a while on our left side,
Sir Courtier! of our Courtly train,
We hold thee a most gallant swain;
Nor is there any Squire we know
Who speaks so smooth, or bows so low.
Here, take this watch. I've set it so
To tell thee when to come & go,
To fetch & carry as we please.'
He bow'd, & took it on his knees.
Some six months after, scene the same,
With cap in hand, our Courtier came
To meet King Stephen in his walk;
When, as fit prelude for more talk,
The King said 'Courtier, what's o'clock?'

"The Courtier, in his true-blue frock,
Making a most obsequious slide,
Produc'd his watch with humble pride.
Then, in a soft and silken tone,
Cry'd, 'Sire! 'tis half-an-hour past one.'

"'Past one! Odds body!' swears the King,
'Look at the sun, 'tis no such thing;

He's not near half his noon-tide height:
Beshrew me! 'tis not much past eight.'
'Great Sire!' reply'd the dainty creature,
'I rest upon my regulator;
This best of watches, best of things,
Giv'n by the very best of Kings,
Is ever present to my view;
The Sun may err, *it* must be true.
O, ne'er shall my disloyal eyes
Trust yon vague Time-peice in the skies;
That Sun, I thank him for his light,
May shew me this more splendid sight,—
This pledge of your refulgent favour;
But let not the vain thing endeavor
To shine director of my time.—
No, Sire! this watch, both Eve & Prime,
Next you shall regulate my motions,
My meals, secretions, nay, devotions.
And may you, Sire, wch heav'n forfend,
With one dread frown my being end,
If e'er my faith so much should falter
As dare the watch you set to alter;
Which, like yourself, both day & night
Still tick-tacks obstinately right;
Whose ev'ry wheel disdains to run
Directed by yon factious Sun.'

"King Stephen smil'd, & gracious cry'd,
'Troth, thou hast taken the right side;
The Sun's a Whig, as we're a Sinner,
'Tis time to dress, & go to Dinner.'"

"*Aston, April 13th*, 1780.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I think your great Lady's conversation is not quite to be depended upon with regard to the change of a certain person. I have had a letter from him written in high spirits concerning Dunning's & Mr. T. Pitt's victory, but reprobating at the same time our association measures. My idea of him is this, that he has no conception this country can be governed but by ministerial influence, and that he would not wish it to be governed better than his father governed it, & by the same means.

"The R. Party (who were brought up under Mr. Pelham, who was a sort of usher in the Orford School, & taught the same grammar, and whom the Duke of Newcastle followed as far as he was able to spell) are precisely of the same opinion. They have shewn it in all their manœuvres concerning our Association, & have, by so doing, lost every shadow of interest wch they had in this county. This being the case, I think one has no need of calling in a General's influence of whom I sincerely hope better things than that great Lady insinuates.....

"Yours most cordially,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, July 12th*, 1780.

"DEAR LORD HARCOURT,—I am return'd from my Northern Tour, the last week of w^ch^ was spent at Hornby Castle, and a more tedious week I think I never spent. But it is over, Heav'n be thank'd! & I am again *chez moi* in my parsonage. Here, too, I mean to stay till our next committee meeting, w^ch^ is to be held at York the first week in August, at the time of the Assizes, & I am the more detirmin'd to do this as I have just now read his Majesty's speech, a paragraph of w^ch^, that I need not quote to you, I suppose will be so largely commented upon by my Lord Chief Justice Loughborough, that it may occasion some resolutions in the Committee necessary to their own vindication; for in these days the best actions need vindicating more than the worst. On second thoughts, however, I question whether my Lord Chief Justice will chuse to appear in a place where his remonstrations are remember'd. Yet his Lordship is a Scotchman.

"Your political sentiments in your last agree with mine to an iota, except only that I cannot account for the Duke of R.'s behaviour respecting our Association Committee in Town; it is certain that he sent persons among the Deputies to vote against the resolution about annual Parliaments, &, to conciliate them, that resolution was couched in these terms, *not exceeding three years*. How is

this conduct to be reconciled with his bringing a bill into the House, two months after, that went a much greater length than ever we aim'd at? Mr. W., however, has congratulated me that the D. is on our side in a point where he is so much against us. I think in return I must congratulate him that the King is on his side, by his pointing out the dangerous tendency of *reform* of laws to his faithful Parliament. By the way, I have not heard from him since the Royal Reconciliation. Is he making up a new suit to go to Court in? if he is, pray help him to chuse one. But I suppose your Lordship is too much employ'd yourself on the same occasion, & I fear will only give him your second thoughts, fearing if his coat was better fancied than your own, the Prince of Wales (who I am told is a supreme judge in such matters) may speak to him longer than to you. . . . .

"Yours most cordially,
"W. MASON."

"*Newby, Aug. 24th*, 1780.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I have known many impudent things done by Bishops (& indeed, in certain affairs like this that referr to their traffic they are usually consummately impudent), but this goes beyond them all, especially as the man must know you have papers in your hand concerning him, w^ch^, if published, would expose him to the

contempt of ev'ry body but those of his own species. I thank your Lordship for the honourable light in w^ch^ you represented me to him in your conference. Yet I am proud to say it was but doing me justice, for I would sooner starve than take a *provision* thro' the mediation of such a wretch. He must & shall be hitched into a rhyme.

"Yours most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Oct. 9th*, 1780.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I purpose to be on my wheels next Thursday, the 13th, & to go to Papplewick, near Nottingham, that day; the next we shall set off for Lord John Cavendish's, near Northampton, as fast as M^r^. Montagu's pair of black horses can carry *us*, & my pair of the same colour can carry our *Gens* or *Johns* (w^ch^, when well pronounced, are two words very similar in sound); there we hope to arrive by Saturday noon, & to depart the Monday following, that we may not too much break upon his Lordship's hunting business. After a day at M^r^. Montagu's Lodge, in Salay Forrest, I proceed *post* from Brackley to Nuneham, but then Bicester intervenes, and a visit at Middleton must be paid, or else, to use a vulgar proverb, 'All the fat will be in the fire.' Do you owe a visit there? 'No. I hate travelling. You must extricate yourself as well as you can.' 'Can you send

me a line to Billing, near Northampton, to tell me their house is full of company?' 'I wish I could; but they are *tête-a-tête; tant pis pour moi.*' Well! I will reach Nuneham as soon as ever I can. I wish I may have the comfort to receive a line from your Lordship, to tell me you have quite forgiven my absence from Aston. I shall have enough to suffer from Palgrave on that acc^t^ without your resentment; the solitary Earl cooling his heels among my bantams, when the electioneering parson was getting drunk at York, will be an immortal topic of ridicule from that quarter. . . . .

"My dear Lord,

"Most cordially yours,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Oct. 28th*, 1781.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I have never yet sent my present to Mon^r^. Gerardin, and I think I shall now stay till I can send him a corrected edition, now above half printed in small octavo, to w^ch^ Burgh is writing a Commentary, and w^ch^ will be of great use to foreigners if not to natives; from what I have seen of it, it promises extreamly well. But pray do not mention this smaller edition, because I mean not to publish it till the quarto be sold, and if I may conjecture from the little I hear of it, I fancy it will not speedily get out of the bookseller's shop. I never published anything

w^ch I received fewer thanks for; that Episcopal presentees should be silent I do not much wonder, but there are others that a little surprize me.

* * * * * *

"Make my profoundest respects to her Ladyship, & tell her that the impossibility of my finding phrases adequate to the sense w^ch I retain of her kindness & condescention to me at York, is one great reason why I have remained so long in sad & blushing silence. The Morritts talk of her as of an Archangeless, not knowing, poor things, that Angels are of no sex; but the Morritts being old maids you know it is excusable, & so I tell Mary. . . . .

"Your Lordship's,

"Most *devouée*,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Jan.* 18*th*, 1782.

"MON CHER MI LOR,— . . . . I congratulate you on the acquisition of your old tapistry[r], it must be monstrous curious & monstrous ugly, and I don't doubt rivals that in the House of Lords in both these excellencies. . . . .

"*Adio, Excellentissimo Signore meo, Adio.*"

"*York, Feb.* 9*th*, 1782.

"MON CHER MI LOR,— . . . . As to the younger Brutus, I own I have my feelings for his *Core Ab-*

[r] The Sheldon maps, now in the Yorkshire Museum.

bandonato, when he knows, as he must now know, that I do not come to Town this winter. But I hope Lady Mary Duncombe will console him, if *Mi* Lady Mount Edgcombe cannot do it; between two such Idolo-meos I hope he will find himself supported against all the *allegrantes* in the universe. Tender him my kindest compliments, but tell him also, that if he had written me from Lucca a letter *absolutely his own* I should not have dropt the correspondence on my part.

"Your next letter will probably find me here, for tho' my residence is within 56 hours of its end yet I am comfortably lodg'd in the dressing-room & bedchamber (tho' not the damask bed) w^ch you & Lady Harcourt did the honour to occupy; and as I have ostensible business to keep me here, & as the snow is on the ground & the governor at Aston, I am in no haste to depatriate, or rather to patriate. The Dean, who preach'd an excellent sermon yesterday, & gave the Archbishop a lick in it, joins with his Lady in respects; so does D^r. Burgh, so does the Morritts, & so also does *Euryalus* to *Nisus;* Lady Harcourt included in all but by the last personage. I never writ so many compliments before, & I have done them so awkwardly I cannot get in my own without a new sentence—so hope for excuse.

"*Adio, mon cher* my Lord,

"W. M.

"I wish Mr. Whitehead would tell me what the Bishop and the rest of the bad company he keeps say of my sermon."

"*Aston, March 7th*, '82.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... No vote of a House of Commons will ever be regarded while a loan can be negotiated, and I dare say, even by the time you receive this, you will see the scene shifted. I by itself, I (as we call'd it in the hornbook) will, however, in the end do its own business. And here ends my politicks. ....

"Your Lordship's *devouée Serviteur*,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, May 15th*, 1782.

"MON CHER MI LOR,— .... As I find Malcolm Mac-greggor has again appear'd in the world, you surely might tell me, who you know think well of that odd writer, whether he keeps up his usual fun. I have not so much of the Cumberland spirit as to envy that great author his fame, yet I must own that I wish he may not run away with my readers, when I am about to publish a grave & high-flown lyric to Mr. W. Pitt. I expect, therefore, soon to receive a letter from your Lordship *sur son sujet*, & another *sur mon propre*, in due time; but I expect more than either to

know whether this wretched weather will not induce you to stay to crop a Daffodil from your London Parterre, before you aim at seeing a Lelac bloom on the terras at Nuneham; for my part I mean (but this *entre nous*) to wait here till you are establish'd in Oxfordshire, and then to wade to you thro' Towcester & Bicester, as I did once before. I am resolv'd not to pass thro' London for two good reasons: that I may not flatter ministers by attending their levees, nor frighten bishops by leaving a card at their doors; two resolutions wch I trust your Lordship will approve, as the one argues proper self-dignity, & the other truely Christian charity. ....

"Adieu, *mon cher* my Lor,

"*Votre tres obbeisant Servtr*,

"W. MASON."

"*Curzon-street, Tuesday, Oct. 22nd*, 1782.

"MON CHER MI LOR,—I have been at Strawberry, where I found its owner in good health & dispairing political spirits, wch seem'd the higher for that very reason; full of old anecdote, but as barren of news as London itself, wch does not seem to know anything, nor willing to do so till it knows something about Gibraltar. Yet, if I can guess from a letter I read this morning from Lord George Gordon to Lord Shelbourne, it will have something (at least) to talk of ere long. But to revert

to the Master of Strawberry. I deliver'd all your messages, so kind and so civil, but he seems to be afraid of the gout at so late a season, but at the same time does not bid me plead this as an excuse for not coming, but says he'll write himself.

"I have seen the new Opera House, wonderful fine, & what I should never think it hard to pull out a ticket if I had one to be let into it, to hear a good opera. But I don't wish to prescribe to other folks; I would rather wish them to stay at home, because they had a ticket & might go in without shewing it to the box-keeper. I mean if the box-keeper was anything of an old-fashion'd Christian, w^ch^ perhaps some box-keepers are, & think (as our excellent liturgy, as I read it to Jack, teaches them to do) that a man & his wife are one flesh. Flesh, I repeat it, one flesh, to w^ch^ I hope our excellent doctress will say Amen.

* * * * * *

"I ought to have began this letter with the thanks of a most grateful heart for all the civility w^ch^ my Lord & my Lady conferr'd on their poor Bèadsman at Nuneham, but it is better to do it late than never. O thou cursed evening post-horn! thou puttest me in mind of those three dear yellow, red, & blue creatures w^ch^ I left to console my Lord in my absence. Thou hast the long-drawn drawl of the former[s], and the shrill cadence

[s] Miss Macartney.

of the two latter. I hear thee still, but thou re-treatest into Chesterfield-street; go, I beseech thee, to Nuneham, & if the yellow Mac. has left it, strive to compleat the trio. I am to the plebeian part of the family,

"Their most humble,

"& to the patrician part,

"Their most respectful,

"Humble Serv^t^,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Nov. 14th*, 1782.

"*Me voila donç, Mon cher mi Lor, enchainé pour treize semains ou trois mois dans mon Bastile Ecclesiastique ou canonique.* I left Newby last Monday, where, tho' I did some little to the flower-garden, I did nothing that will ever tend to make it rival yours, for tho' its owner would squander hundreds in factitious ornaments, he is so *stingy* about a miserable grove of young trees not worth half-a-crown a-peice that no flowers, or even underwood, can ever possibly grow in it. In short, I am quite tired of *mon metier jardinique*, & am resolv'd to do nothing in that way for any body in future; except, perhaps, making the projected alteration in yours at Nuneham, when the new-planted screen is grown thick enough for its purpose, w^ch^ will certainly not be till the year after this; till then my taste shall lie fallow.

"How was I dissapointed by your four huge paquets w^ch^ I rec^d^ at Newby. I expected at the worst some fine new French *Brochure*, & at the best Lady Harcourt's Poems ready cut and dry'd for the Strawberry Press; when out crawls old deformity Hay, with his forgotten pamphlet about the Poor Laws. Why did you send it? Why not make M^r^. Whitehead read it for me, as I made him read Bishop Bagot's prophetical Lectures? He would have rejoic'd in the task, considering how slight it was in comparison of that w^ch^ he had undergone before. Then comes the country Curate's criticisms; of these, as you were sure that I should think exactly as you do, why pester the post with them? These, however, I return, and with them the Lady's letter. Leaving it to your Lordship to make all proper acknowledgements *de ma part*, w^ch^ cannot be proper unless they break thro' every point of your Rousseauan code & lye most abominably; lye, however, you must for me either in French or English, but rather in French, because that language *s'accommode au mieux a cette Ton la.*

"I am glad your *Lieux* are likely to become sweet, but I still fear about them. I always suspected that the smell came from the great drain *under the house*[t], and when a drain is so situated,

[t] This drain ran through a porous soil next to the well which supplied drinking-water! It was only removed in the year 1862.

& when these places communicate with it, & have not a drain appropriated to themselves, 'tis hardly possible to cure the evil. I am myself employed in constructing a *lieu* here in our new Residentiary house, & tho' I have many & great difficulties to encounter I trust it will turn out a paragon, both for sweetness, utility, & cheapness. Dixon[u] & I have this morning translated the very marrow of Mon^r^. Janino Antimefixique for the use of the Morritts, who you know are no *parlez-vousers.* I flatter myself that before my residence is finish'd there will not be a single *foss d'aisance* in this ancient city w^ch^ will not be free from all exhalations *putride* & *pernicieuse.* I wish the doctress[x] was here to smell & decide upon them.

* * * * * *

"I have made many alterations & additions in my epistle to S^r^. Joshua, & shall send Mr. Whitehead a copy for his criticisms in a post or two.

"I will finish this letter with a golden story w^ch^ Miss F.[y], if still with you, will sparkle at. Your Lordship knows that M^r^. Delany sat to Opie for the K.; the said K. also fixt upon two of his best beggar-men's heads for his Cabinet. The boy thought his fortune made, and put the three pictures in fine frames accordingly. In process of

[u] Father of the Rev. Wm. Dixon, Canon Residentiary of York, and Chaplain to the Archbishop.

[x] Lady Harcourt. [y] Fauquier.

time his Majesty sent his Prime Minister in Virtu, West, to know their price, adding that the K., on this occasion, expected to be treated *as a private gentleman*. The poor boy was thunderstruck, & said if that was the case he could only say 'that he painted a head for four guineas,' forgetting to mention the frames. The next day the three pictures were sent for, & paid for, & his Majesty possesses the frames *gratis*.

"My best respects & compliments attend my good Lady & the whole family severally & collectively. I remain,

"Your Lordship's most
"faithful & obsequious Servt,
"W. MASON."

"*York, Dec. 17th*, 1782.

"MON CHER MI LOR,— . . . . I have not time to answer her Ladyship, except by saying that if she will put the term *distemper* out of the question, and send for a good whitewasher from Oxford, who is used to whitewash college ceilings, she will have her room better distemperatur'd, and 50 pr. cent cheaper, than if she employs a professor painter or upholsterer (my friend who paper'd the breakfast-room, & whose name I blush that I do not recollect, not excepted), the only rule to be given is that the best, i.e. purest, whiting be used, & the clearest size.

* * * * * *

"I hope to get Fresnoy out by February, but I cannot finish the new edition of the E. G. till Burgh returns, and of him I can get no tidings. Oh, I now remember my upholstering friend's name was Harsnet. I generally remember the names of my friends by their initials, and as H *non est litera*, but a mere aspiration, that made me forget him. You will say, perhaps, that there is no H in his name, but I say it is decent that there should, & I retain nothing but what is decent in my memory. The *Petit Pa*[2] has been here, & stay'd till I wished him away to make room for my associators. He talked strange things of the French branch of the Harcourt family, & says that he learned from the *Memoires Secrettes* that they were things of yesterday. I said I was glad of it, provided the English branch had Madam Sprote de Burgoyne entirely to themselves, as they certainly had. But there is a triple rap at my door, and I can no more."

"*York, Jan. 5th*, 1783.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Let me add a superlative degree of admiration to that positive and comparative one with wch I have ever idolized Lady Harcourt as a woman of business. Her punctuality in proving, under the very handwriting of Mr. Jones, that my beaver shagg-coat is actu-

[2] The Rev. William Palgrave.

ally paid for is an instance of commercial punctuality w^ch^ would do honour to a frequenter of Batson's coffee-house. But tell it not at Brooks's! publish it not at the Pharo Bank at Cumberland House! lest Prince Cloten (as Lord Lothian calls him) rejoice; lest the daughters of Rachael Loydd (if she has any legitimate ones) triumph.

* * * * * *

"I have made a visit of three days to Mr. Weddels last week, where the P. Palgrave now is. I read him your elaborate defence of the French Harcourts, but I cannot say it had that effect upon his genealogical intellects that you seem'd to suspect. But he is monstrously angry at me for blabbing his suspicions, and calls me a seive & what not. Yet I stick to my text, *Vitam impendere vero;* and if the Ducal branch did not descend from Sprote de Burgoyne, I think your Lordship highly to blame for letting the *marked attentions* w^ch^ that supposititious branch paid you pass for more than a mere chip in porridge; for my own part I must be free to tell you that if I should have the honour to attend you on your next tour to Paris (w^ch^, if the Preliminarys of Peace are already sign'd, will, I suppose, be by the time I am out of residence),—I say, I must be free to tell your Lordship that I shall only pay my *devoirs* to the Marquisate branch, for I would scorn, I repeat it, I would scorn to take notice of anything but a *real Harcourt*, having so long had the honour & pleasure to subscribe myself, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's most *devoué*,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 12th*, 1783.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I find myself very comfortable here, tho' the snow has been in the air and on the ground ever since I came, and I have been able only to walk once round *my place* since I came hither. But I keep excellent fires, & Dixon, my curate, and a young Cantab, who is a sort of *eleve* of mine, make a very comfortable *Partie Quarée*. We seldom speak to one another but at meals; they read, & I correct Sternhold & Hopkins in the evening, and daub all the morning. I have erected my new organ, w^ch^ answers *au mieux*, but I dare not print my new Psalms lest Bishop Birch should deem it an innovation, & therefore I am correcting old Sternhold just to take out his vulgarity, & make him passable, w^ch^, as the Company of Stationers have done it before me, I think cannot fall under ecclesiastical censure.

"I read nothing but newspapers, and I suppose know more of what that blessed pair Fox & Burke say in the House of Commons than you do, for I take in the 'Morning Chronicle,' and read every debate quite thro'. I think if ever there was a

nation that deserv'd to be p—st upon, or even (if the Doctress will excuse the expression) sh—t upon, it is the island of Great Britain at this present moment. If the Parliament in James the First's time was half as bad, Guy Fox deserv'd the Crown of Martyrdom for endeavouring to blow it up. But I say no more on such a detestable subject. They say your Lorship is going to France; I hope it is only by way of calling on your relations in your passage to America; if you mean it as such, I should be glad to accompany you...."

"*Aston, March 16th*, 1783.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... I am going to-morrow into the East Riding, to receive my Michaelmas rents & to look after my landed property. My journey is twice as far as from London to Nuneham, with much worse accommodations, & not even the slightest hope of a three-prong'd fork. Nevertheless, I hope to go thither, do my business, & return here again before this day sevenight. *Go & do thou likewise!* for tho' I flatter myself that I have in Alderson almost as good a Premier as Lady Harcourt, & a much better than a greater personage than your Lordship either ever had, will have, or perhaps deserves to have, yet it is right for the principal sometimes to appear, even if he runs the risque of *belying* that constitutional

adage, that a Principal can do *no* wrong, w^ch^ probably will be my case; nevertheless I hold it right to take the journey. Whatever Lady H. thinks of my doctrine I hope she will receive the kindest respects from her's and your Lordship's

"Affectionate Serv^t^,

"W. MASON."

"*Curzon-street, Friday Evening.*

"MON CHER MI LOR,—My imaginary business, as Lady Harcourt is pleas'd to stile it, is not yet quite finished; and General Harcourt has been so pressing in his invitation to St. Leonard's Hill that, was it only on the mere consideration of his being your Lordship's brother, I could not think myself at liberty to refuse the acceptance of it, setting aside the still stronger, tho' perhaps not so sincere, solicitations of what Lord Mount Edgcombe (speaking of *my Lady*) calls *his better part.* These invitations, however, necessarily oblige me to take another to my old good Dowager at Bill Hill, to whom I have many obligations, and to whom I cannot approach so near without incurring the sin of ingratitude if I approach not nearer, & who, tho' she was a boy in her youth, I esteem much more than such sort of *fine* women as will be girls, or worse, all their lives. But truce with reflections. I mean only to say that both these

visits must be paid, & a visit to Strawberry also. . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"*Devouée*,
"W. M."

"*Weymouth, or rather Melcombe Regis*,
"*Aug. 9th*, 1783.

"MY DEAR LORD,—We are, after some difficulties, settled in quiet lodgings, but w^ch^ turn their *derrière* to the sea, & therefore are not quite to my mind. The weather rather cold than otherwise, but the sea calm & comfortable, as I have already thrice experienced; the place very full of company, but to my party & myself a true solitude: we dine frugally and philosophically on a Piper, a Doré, or a Sole, as it may happen, with a plain joint of small Portland Mutton, a tart for our dessert, *voila toute, Point de Glace, Point de Compôte, Point des Fruits.* Your Lordship would die of it. But then we have the Bird of Paradise to feast our eyes with every morning on the Strand. And by letters left at the post-house we are to expect M^rs^. Thrale, who, as our imaginations tell us, is to bring hither the Colossus of Literature, Dr. Johnson. Should this be the case, I mean to shrink under Miss Fauquier's hoop, take fast hold of her gum garters, and so shield me from the fiend. The Bird of Paradise having unfortunately

no legs would not, I fear, afford me sufficient shelter. The players, tho' announced, are not yet arrived. I trust I shall find many Siddons' amongst them, and shall be able to outtalk ye all in the theatrical walk when I return. . . . .

"Your most faithful
"Ottoman,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Oct. 24th*, 1783.

"YOUR Lordship was in so sweet a temper when you writ your last two letters to me that, after burning the first according to your commands, I thought it proper to keep a respectful silence till I might hope the storm of right honorable company was blown away, or, in the Psalmist's phrase, 'until their tyranny was overpast,' & when you might again think yourself in possession of your own *Lares*. But I rather think it was from your imprudence in sending them to St. Leonard's (I mean your two dear birds) that this tempest of company came so fast & continued so long. Recall then those household deitys, & you will be sure of no noise but theirs to interrupt your slumbers. 'Yes (says the Doctress), so he may, I'm sure, from *me* at least.' But I have a better reason than the foregoing for my own silence. You must know, in my way from I. Dixon's to M^r^. Montagu's, I laid a plan for my Indian Tragedy, & not finding

Mr. M. at home I took possession of the remnant of his old house and there drew it fairly out on paper; this employ'd me the day I waited for his return. When I got home from York I resum'd my dramatic ideas, and have now, in the intervals I have snatch'd from making a new sunk fence, actually written the whole five acts, in my first & rough manner, wch, tho' not legible to others, fully comprehend my whole design, and wch, in my York residence, I think I shall be able to polish with ease. Tho' I have preserv'd the unitys even to French exactitude, I think there will be incidents & bustle sufficient to satisfy English caprice. And as I had Mrs. Siddons in my mind's eye all the time I was sketching my principal character, there turns out so much variety of passions in it that I believe nobody but her could perform it.

"Then as to my sunk fence, I undertook that at the same time, on purpose to convince Mr. Whitehead that I could make one wch should be invisible tho' nearer my house than that wch I projected at Nuneham [a], and for wch I suffer'd such unmerited ridicule. Therefore, if by both these works, of wch I am at present equally vain (but chiefly of the fence), I can convince Dr. Johnson that a regular drama may have sufficient theatrical force, & my other critic that a sunk fence close under the nose

[a] That which exists between the pleasure-grounds and the meadows.

may be hid from the eye, I shall enjoy a double triumph; circle my temples with a sprig of my own Portugal Laurels, & bid the Laureat & Pensioner defiance. If you wish to know more of my combined labors I have only to tell you that my fence is 4 foot deep, and all my five acts three hundred lines a-piece long. That the fence ends in two clumps, & the tragedy with two deaths. That the former is broken by various intermediate shrubs, but the latter by no intervening Episodes. That the unity of place is as well preserv'd in the one as in the other. That one has taken up as much *time* in writing as the other has in digging. And that if when it is acted my actors exceed all other actors, as much as my laborers excell Oxfordshire laborers, my tragedy will pit, box, & gallery against brother Carlisle.

"Stonehewer, when you see him, will answer for me that I am no boaster, for he has seen enough of both my works to augure the best concerning them. Nay, he pretended he left me the sooner that he might not interupt two such capital concerns, yet as he left me for London, & as I know he was seen at the 'Mourning Bride' in less than 40 hours after his departure, I leave you to judge of the sincerity of that speech. Adieu, my good Lord, I am horribly in debt to all my other correspondents. I have not written a line in prose this last forthnight, what more I have to say shall be in blank verse.

"See, I return you in this self-same cover,
The letter written by the son of Brown,
And dated Hinchinbroke. Much I rejoice
That he approves my Epitaph, yet blush
That he should title me the best of men
As well as poets; half ev'n of the last
Is more than would become me to accept.
Therefore, my Lord, to your own escritoire
Do I return the writing. You, perchance,
Before you give it place in that French archive,
Will blot out Hinchinbroke's detested name,
Vile seat of Jemmy Twitcher. Yet methinks
The proud antiquity of that fam'd mansion,
Whose history I leave to Walpole's pen,
May plead for pardon, & old Hinchinbroke
Attone for all the sins of its old master.
"Yet one word more; a word to my good Lady,
To whom I promis'd Cranberrys, alas!
The fervor of this Austro-Gallic summer
Has reach'd the moors of Yorkshire. Mrs. Thorpe,
At once my steward, cook, & sage duenna,
Says, 'that nor love nor money' can procure
That tasteful viand. Honest Harry Duncombe,
My representative, & bold associate,
Has promis'd Moor game. Yet (for so I councell'd)
He will not send them till autumnal heat
Be chang'd to winter's cold, else, as I fear'd,
They might o'erpower ev'n Nuneham's venison
In rank *haut gout*. My Lord, I can no more,
My paper's full, it hardly leaves me room
To say how much I am your's & my Ladie's
Most faithful, humble, & obsequious servant.
P.S. No news, save only that Charles Turner's dead,
The Baronet, and Member for York City."

"*York, January 19th*, 1784.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have not been better pleased a great while than with the news w^ch^ I rec^d^ the last post from Mr. Duncombe, that your Lordship had been at Court. In taking this step I think you have acted in perfect consistency with yourself, & have shewn the world that you have a mind superior to little self-considerations (tho' in your case they might properly enough be called great[b]), when one part of the Constitution is so manifestly in danger.

"That the two other parts were before in danger from this w^ch^ you now support your Lordship & I have been long agreed, & have in our different spheres acted accordingly, in consequence of which we have been called Republicans & what not, but we have only smiled at the accusation; & now, when your Lordship will be called a king's friend, you will only smile on, if, indeed, at the present crisis any thinking man can smile.

"I had written thus far last night, when a letter from Alderson, rec^d^ this morning, repeats the same

[b] Lord Harcourt's absence from Court was owing to a slight which he imagined had been put upon him after his father's death.

news. I only mention this to shew you my full approbation of your conduct on this occasion was ready before you did me the honor to seem to wish for it, or at least for my opinion on the subject; I must add that when my friend Burgh read that part of Mr. Duncombe's letter w^ch^ related to this matter, he cry'd out, 'Well, this is generous, & as it should be.'"

To Lady Harcourt:—

"DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I have owed your Ladyship a letter much longer than my Lord, but as I have nothing to tell you except that I have actually finish'd my Tragedy (so far as I usually finish things in MS., leaving the last polish for the time it goes thro' the Press), I must beg you to deliver the following message verbatim to Lady Jersey, &, if possible, in the presence of her Lord:—

"MADAM,—I am commissioned by the Ottoman to tell your Ladyship that he looks upon sending a letter in a cover unfrank'd, when the writer has a ready means of getting it frank'd, as a very foolish way of shewing one's *ton*, and that how much soever such acts of extravagance may suit with your Ladyship's pin-money, it by no means agrees with the said Ottoman's prayer-money. I am further commissioned to inform you that he thinks the letter you sent him still

lighter and more inane than the French balloon w^ch^ you ought to have sent him, since it contain'd nothing but what the 'Public Advertiser' told him the very same post; & lastly, I am authorized to acquaint your Ladyship that untill he hears you are become a king's friend as sincerely as Lord Harcourt & he are, he does not mean to honour your Ladyship with any further answer.

"I wish to know what are the state of Mr. Whitehead's politics at the present moment? I fancy if one was to ask him he would press his lips with his three fingers & say, 'I don't know;' pray ask him before hands, and see whether I do not guess right.

"Believe me, my good Lord & my good Lady,

"Most devotedly yours,

"W. MASON.

"I have actually sat another time for the finishing the picture for your Ladyship, but the varnish will not dry well enough in this frosty weather to suffer it to be packed up. Three weeks more & I am out of residence, God be thanked, Amen."

To Lord Harcourt:—

"*Weymouth, August 26th*, 1784.

"FOR Heaven's sake, my dear Lord, learn to direct your letters as the new Act prescribes; here

have I just now paid one shilling and nine pence half penny for Miss Fanny's paper 'Sundial,' w^ch^ is a sum greater than I would voluntarily give even for her Fancy Tail. If matters go on thus with the rest of my correspondents I must run away from Weymouth incontinently, and that I would not chuse to do, for we have got charming lodgings that overlook the harbour as well as the sea, and tho' the weather is not to be called summer, yet, with a better thing than summer, sea-coal fires, we pass our time very comfortably. I have yet bathed only twice, w^ch^ agrees with me, as it always does, exceedingly, and I shall not be in haste to break up our party here till Stonehewer sighs for London, of w^ch^ at present I am happy to observe no symptoms.

* * * * * *

"We hear nothing of Palgrave yet, they say he stays at home till he has got in his barley. I think, however, he will be here in a few days. Lord Camelford is already at Boronnoc.

"I have not spoken to one Christian soul yet, except to those of my own party. I hear of nobody that is likely to make me break this comfortable silence, and what with gazing on the sea, & now & then painting on my Holy Family, I pass my time wonderfully to my inclination.

"I would willingly inquire after Walter and the Flower Garden, if my compunctions for now &

then treating him with such *rudesse* did not restrain me. . . . .

"Your most oblig'd
"& faithfully *devouée*,
"W. MASON."

"*Weymouth, Sept. 16th*, 1784.

"YOUR account of the sudden death of poor Walter affected me much, I forgot instantly all his coxcombalities, & thought with your Lordship only of his humbler merit. I recollected an anecdote w^ch^ I believe I never mentioned to you, that when I placed a stick on the spot where the vase now stands I charged him not to remove it, & told him that I intended to put the vase on a pedestal on that very point. Ready as he always was to give his opinion, he said 'it would look very handsome, & that something of varse might be put upon the stone.' I little thought at the time that I should either put his idea into execution, or that he would furnish me with the theme. Yet the recollection of what he said, & his dying on the very spot, has prompted me to write what your Lordship will find on the next leaf. My triumvirate of criticks here think the lines simple, inscriptive, & natural; if you do not think them all these in the extreme, I shall have no objection (after M^r^. Whitehead has revised them) to their being inscribed on the pedestal. But I would not

have this done with your Lordship's usual precipitation, because, perhaps, if I keep them awhile by me I may improve them. His name, with somewhat in prose, should be prefixed to it, but this must rest with your Lordship, as I know not how to date it, &c. . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"truly affectionate Servt,
"W. MASON."

INSCRIPTION.

"HERE died the village Swain whose hourly care
Taught this gay scene with richest bloom to smile;
Fill'd with fresh fragrance thro' the varying year,
And but with life resign'd his willing toil.
To his Memorial sacred be the Lay!
Read it, ye proud, with no fastidious eye!
But learn, with Harcourt's gratitude, to pay
The tribute due to honest industry.

"N.B. *Richest bloom* in the 2nd verse means orange trees; if your Lordship would have it expresst finer, read thus :—

"Here taught Hesperian flowers & fruit to smile,
Fiori e frutti."

"*Curzon Street, Sept. 25th*, 1784.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I am glad your Lordship seems not to be precipitate about the inscription. The two last lines I am, on consideration, persuaded do not convey the moral I wish to convey. I want to tell the great that they would be very little indeed without the aid of honest industry, and all the compliment which I meant to pay your Lordship was that you knew this truth, and shew'd that you did so by erecting a monument to an industrious man. I first writ it thus :—

'Sacred be the stone:
Pass it, ye proud, with no fastidious eye,
But learn, with Harcourt's gratitude, to own
How much you owe to honest industry.'

"But the two words *own* & *owe* came too near together, and made a bad gingle. After all I think it would be best to drop the matter entirely; Mr. Whitehead's verses (wch he shew'd me last night), tho' not inscriptive, have both more poetry & more pathos than mine. I like them greatly, and if they were hung up on a wooden tablet on the wall of the Orangerie would very properly commemorate poor Walter.

* * * * * *

"I talked with Mr. Whitehead about the alterations in the flower garden; I find he has no serious objection to any part but that between the old tree & Flora, which he thinks too open, & in wch he is certainly right, for a grove of tall trees was my original intention in that part; the admission of

your orange-pots you well know was a sacrifice of my taste to your Lordship's. As to Miss Fauquier, who wants poles to be hid with laurells as quickly as those—what shall I call them?—belonging to the yellow maccaw, wᶜʰ ought to be cover'd with a thick hankerchief, might be, I have nothing to prescribe but one year's patience. Pray tell her I have seen the puppy, & that it is a most delectable puppy, & that I shall spend my winter evenings at Aston most delectably in its education.

* * * * * *

"I have some thoughts on Monday of endeavouring to get into an attic to see the great air balloon go from Lᵈ. Foley's garden. I saw Lunardis ascend the moment I return'd from Hampshire with great contentation. . . . .

"Your faithfully devoted Servant,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, October*, 1784.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Lady Holdernesse told me that your royal visitors were vastly pleas'd with Nuneham, & in particular with that perfectly *easy* reception they had met with; this made me smile, but I kept my smile to myself, & only thought that *form* was *ease* in a royal vocabulary. This opinion I think your Lordship's letter authorized me to conceive.

"When I was in Town Sʳ. Joshua told me that

a picture wᶜʰ had been varnish'd with Mastic varnish (& consequently grown opake), would recover its transparency if only well rubb'd with a dry silk hankerchief. I suspect that your 'Taverner' is so varnish'd, & therefore I wish you would bid Mʳ. Jacob try the experiment, as it is perfectly safe. He also told me that the varnish itself would rub off in a white powder under the pressure of the finger, but this perhaps you would not chuse to venture: certain it is that the picture at present has lost all brilliancy.

"Pray tell Mʳ. Whitehead that I thank him for the alteration in the inscription, but I shall not be satisfied with the inscription itself unless I can contrive to make it express what was my first idea, & this, tho' I have often thought of it, I have not yet hit upon. . . . .

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Your sincerely faithful Servant,

"W. MASON.

"I left Alderson in Town waiting for the return of the great seal from Lord Gower's or Buxton, where the Chancellor now is; but he desired, when I next writ to your Lordship, that I would make his most respectful acknowledgments to you, not only for what you had said of him in your letter to me, but also in that wᶜʰ you writ to Lady Holdernesse. I am glad your alteration in the flower

garden pleases you; I own that part appear'd a little cramp'd, but this merely from the laurels not entirely hiding the pole, but I have always found that when they *are* grown the nearer the pole the better, because they grow thicker at the bottom. I wish you had told me what my Lord of Sarum thought of the York *Te Deum*, tho' I know it was wretchedly perform'd."

"*Aston, October 20th*, 1784.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I am sincerely glad to find you venture on altering the flower garden yourself, it will give you much additional pleasure, & the spot additional beauty; for, indeed, it wants thinning of shrubbs, & you could not thin amiss, even if you had a less picturesque eye than you allow yourself to have. Pray tell Mrs. Harcourt, with my best respects, that her charming drawing caught my eye when I came home with peculiar beauty. Lay me at the Lady of the Bedchamber's feet, & bid her not forget the Professorship in lieu of the Cranberrys. . . . .

"Believe me, my good Lord,

"Most truly yours,

"W. MASON.

"POSTSCRIPT (to be read first).

". . . . As to Mr. Whitehead and his yaw yaw, I regard him not. Had he a grain of gratitude in him he would have writ me a full and true account of the Oxford Balloon. However, I have made up my own mind about it. I know for certain, by its falling in Sr. William Lee's grounds, that the conversion of the Jews is at hand, & that they and the coalition with Charles Fox, & Lord George Gordon at their head, will hold a Sanhedrim in St. Stephen's Chappel before this time twelve month. Was I not a true prophet concerning your Lordship & the Humstrums? how, then, can I now become Apocryphal? . . . ."

"*Aston, December 26th*, 1784.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I should like vastly to know how Mrs. Siddons comports herself in Mr. Cumberland's 'Carmelite,' and whether the 'Carmelite' be as good as Mr. Jacob's 'Caromel'; this is not meant as a pun neither. God be thank'd, the papers tell me enough of Dr. Johnson's will & funeral. But I am sadly at a loss for news since I lost my strawberry-hill evening post, and I would almost commence a correspondence for *very, very* true intelligence, if it would not come to me in a more illegible hand than Lady Harcourt's, the only hand wch, in my present mood, I would take the pains to decypher, being her Ladyship's & your Lorship's

"Most cordially & obsequiously,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, January 8th*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I scorn your words! I never lamented the loss of my evening post; I only said I had lost it. I am of old White's mind (a member for Redford in the Duke of Newcastle's time), who said when Charles Townsend died, 'Well, we have lost our champaigne, but I can drink port;' so if your Lordship will supply me now & then with — no, not port, it is too English, but Vin de Bourbon, & if Miss Fauquier will dash it with a little of her Nants, I shall live very contentedly.

* * * * * *

"I am ashamed I have not sent the epitaph, w^ch^, when it comes, I fear will not be worth sending; for I have of late hardly had one poetical idea, yet never so studious or so well employed as I have been these last two months. I have, however, nearly finished what I was about, & will soon try to make the inscription more to my mind, but I know it will be too simple to be relished by those who come to see the flower garden.

"My halcyon quiet is going soon to be disturb'd by a county meeting, w^ch^ *entre nous*, & quite *entre nous*, is much against my judgment, & therefore I have done all I could to prevent it. We may, perhaps, make a better figure than I fear we shall, but if we do, it will be from a superior weight of folly on the other side.

"Your Lordship talks of the Queen of France & Lady Salisbury, I have never heard a syllable about either of them, and very little ev'n of D^r^. Johnson; so I beg when you convert yourself either into a morning Herald, or morning Post, or evening Chronicle, you would be a little more explicit. I think M^r^. Whitehead's Ode a very, very good one, but tell him that the Americans & I think him an old fogrum. We know a trick worth two of that w^ch^ he would palaver us into. I wonder folks that are poets should on that acc^t^ think themselves prophets, I thank my stars I never committed such a folly.

"I conclude with the following seasonable wish:—

'May many happy years return
To you and Lady Harcourt;
May she have many a happy month
Of waiting in our rare Court.
And, when your Lordship goes to court,
May you hear royal speeches,
W^ch^ will not make you seem so tir'd,
As when poor Laudy preaches.'

"So no more at present

"From your Lordship's obsequious Serv^t^,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, January 19th*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Porter in your teeth! your face! nay even your new birthday coat! I protest what you last sent me was genuine champaigne. *Œil* (I can't make the right diphthong) *de perdrix, ma foi, veritable!* 'Tis true it was not of that spitfire sort that I have had from *another wine merchant*[c], in w^ch^ I always suspected a considerable dash of perry, but it sparkled in the glass, had a fine relish, & did not get into one's nose, as the other did. But remember, my order was not for champagne, I cannot afford to pay for it.

* * * * * *

"As to my newspaper, it is only the 'St. James's,' & it has only for the last two posts taken up the subject of Dr. Johnson, of the other two topics it has been absolutely silent. Thank you for your information. I am glad that the French are as wicked & as foolish as we are; the more the merrier. If ever I go to France it shall be in an air balloon, with one ready at Calais to bring me back again, or carry me wherever the wind drives.

"I am not classical enough to remember Mrs. Montagu's allusion, but I think she would have been one of the (not Jack, but) Jenny Daws, who would have attended the Dr.'s funeral had he not been flippant about Lord Littleton. Mercy on us! she talks of a decline of the Empire! 'tis

[c] Meaning Horace Walpole.

worse treason than I have written to Mrs. Delany. . . . .

"Your Lordship's *devouè*,
"& *tres obligè*,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, February 2nd*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Younge, in his 'Night Thoughts,' is the easiest of all authors to imitate, as Mr. Whitehead will tell you, who made an excellent parody of them thirty years ago, when they were in high vogue here, till we exchang'd him with Germany for Handel, who is a musical Dr. Younge, and suits our taste here in music just as the other suits the Helvetic body in poetry. But this puts me in mind of answering your Montaguian paragraph. I am surprized *you* should mistake what I said about genius; God forbid I should be so unthankful to Providence as either to suppose or even to say that I had no particle of that divine spark. I only said that I had often palm'd versification upon the world for it, & that it pass'd for current; & so I have often done, as you well know.

* * * * * *

"Poetical genius is a thing as different from a happy talent of putting wit into easy versification as two things can be; yet, setting wit aside, versification only will do the business in an age which adverts so little to any true critical princi-

ples as that very enlighten'd one in w^ch^ it is our felicity to live.

* * * * * *

"Your Lordship says that you suspect M^r^. W.[d] is not likely to live long; should he die I must rely on your friendship, & press you to be strongly active in getting my letters, &c., from Lady Walgrave, who I have good reason to think will be his heiress in chief. He told me two years ago that he had carefully parcelled all his letters, & left in his will they should be sent to the *living* writers of them. I hope this will be conscientiously performed whenever he dies. But I write now to urge this great favour from you; I assure you I shall esteem it a weighty one, for the letters I writ him were generally the worst I ever writ; the *verve* never flow'd freely, & besides this, you know many of the subjects must have been such as one would wish should not be made in any sort public, at least before I was dead too, and then let either S^r^. John Hawkins or M^r^. Boswell make their best of them, & publish them in the papers as frequently as S^r^. W. Lee's cure of the *Catumenia*. . . .

"Believe me most truly yours,

"W. MASON.

"Pray give the inclos'd receipt to M^r^. Whitehead, and tell him to take the copy & read it for

[d] H. Walpole.

me, as I made him read Bp. Bagot's sermons about Antichrist; and when your Lordship sees M^rs^. Montagu, desire to know what is become of Hannah Moor's other *protegè*, who you may remember was a beautiful young lady that laid every night under a hay-mow, because she had been cross'd in love; she, too, was of Bristol. I remember Smelt writ the story to York three or four years ago, but old Ann Morrit would not believe a word of it, for said she, with her usual emphasis, 'What? a handsome younge woman sleep under a hay-mow within two miles of such a seaport as Bristow? Mercy on her! why she would be ravished by the young sailors four or five times every night?'

"I own her argument against the probability of the story had its full weight with me at the time, & since then I have never heard a syllable about her; I suppose she did not survive such reitterated mischances."

"*Aston, July 3rd*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,—When I am in good humour, w^ch^ I generally am when I am quite alone, as I am at present, I am a most punctual correspondent. I therefore sit down to answer your last immediately. I am rejoiced at your acc^t^ of your plantations, & as you don't mention the transplanted cypress as having suffer'd, I flatter myself

that my last vagaries of alteration have not prov'd unsuccessful. When I come next to Nuneham I shall shut my left eye as I go thro' the passage you mention from the library, tho' I believe it unnecessary, as it was almost blind originally, & of late is only on the recovery; the crimson, however, & the ancestry must be guarded against.

* * * * * *

"Your wonder that you should not find a parson to your mind is no wonder to me,—I who know you never was able to find but *one* in your whole life that you thought tolerable; and who but that one do you think can so far descend from the dignity of his profession to assist you in your dilemma, knowing as he does that you hold the whole order in contempt?

* * * * * *

"There is a young man whom I have seen, the son of Mr. Haggitt, near Pipwell, whom my Lady Harcourt knows to be a man of very estimable character, with whom I have frequently corresponded on the subject of that wretched Hoyland. I was instrumental in getting him a fellowship at Pembroke Hall; he has since been abroad, & was sometime in Lord Cooper's family at Florence, carried there by Mr. Gore, Lady Cooper's father. I have seen little of the young man myself, but his appearance is in his favour, & he would certainly never shame you by putting his knife in his

mouth at your table. Mr. Brudenel, the member for Rutland, as his father told me, is much his friend; and Mr. Gore, when he left Florence, writ him this character of his son: 'I assure you I have found him a very sensible & accomplished young man.' He is at present at Cambridge, and, I believe, Private Tutor to some Gentleman Commoner. If, therefore, you wish to inquire about him, I have given you the best line I can for inquiry.

* * * * * *

"I am rejoiced to see in the papers of to-day that H. L. Piozzi is going to publish anecdotes of Dr. Johnson. I take for granted it is Mrs. Thrale herself & not her *Tenore Sposa.* I am resolv'd to set her up against all other biographers of the Dr., and I will address my defence to Mrs. Montagu. . . . . .

"Believe me, my dear Lord,
"Yours most obsequious, &,
"What is better, cordially,
"W. MASON."

"*York, November 7th*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . It seems as if Mr. Whitehead never burnt any paper, from that wch contains his first thoughts to the finished copy. I believe there are not less than 9 or 10 of an epitaph he writ on Mrs. Wright, and so of almost

all his other pieces. This is strange to me, who hate the multiplication of MSS. so much that I have often burnt some too hastily. But what is most extraordinary is the preservation of most of his MSS. after they have past the press and become absolutely useless.

* * * * * *

"I am also very glad you have employ'd Mr. Hyome for Courtenay Castle. Tedbury Church gave me the very highest opinion of his Gothic taste, and I don't doubt but he will make it charming upon paper, and if he does that I shall be contented, for I never wish it to be executed till your Lordship is as rich as Crœsus, and the tapistry as rotten as old Betty's worst under-petticoat. I am just now employing a joiner to make me a *facsimile* of an old chair in our Minster, in wch King Edward the third, if not the first, was crown'd, & in wch every Archbishop has been enthroned. I mean to leave it to Courtenay Castle in my last will & testament. . . . . .

"Most truly & affectionately yours,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Dec. 26th*, 1785.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Yesterday the dull uniformity of my residentiary dinners was *strangely* enliven'd by the company of that redoubted bear-leader Mr. James Boswell. Burgh was of the

party, & a more ridiculous *conversationi* never passed either at Mrs. Montagu's or Mrs. Vesey's. I began by telling him that I exhibited a striking specimen of Christian charity in giving him a dinner after his ill usage of me. He was all astonishment, & pleaded innocence. I then explain'd myself by telling him I was never once mentioned in his book, & that I thought the abuse of Dr. Johnson, wch I was certain I could not have fail'd to have been honour'd with upon various occasions, was the thing I of all others most *ambitioned*, & that therefore if he did not take care to shew the world that I was one of those whom his friend the Dr. the most cordially despised, he would do me an injury with posterity.

"He promised he would make me ample amends in his life, & that he had materials for the purpose quite sufficient. I begged that he would insert them all, & on his promise to do so the business amicably concluded. By this little specimen your Lordship may guess of the rest of our talk. You will after all wonder how he came to dine with me at all, but as he had seen me at church, and had visited me in my last residence, I knew I could not prevent a visit, & therefore thought best to put on prebendal hospitality. There is a strange book published by a feigned name of Mr. Heron, full of the absurdest taste & pretence to learning that ever was written. I asked if he knew the

author. He says he is a Scotchman call'd Pinkerton, who lives at Knightsbridge; that Mr. W. has taken prodigiously to him, & has him frequently at Strawberry Hill. I cannot conceive this possible. Pray try to find out the truth. I want much to see Cumberland's character of Lord George Germaine, but you will be the best judge whether that want is worth satisfying, & if you think so will satisfy it at the small, tho' perhaps too great, expense of sixpence. . . . .

"Yours most devotedly,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Jan. 25th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I hasten to answer your last, well conceiving what a fidget you must be in, and not in the least adverting to the space of six months wch you have to turn yourself in, nor to the talent wch you know you possess of parying the attacks of pressing, & perhaps impertinent, solicitation with cool civility & *treble-refined* politeness. I use your own epithet because it is the best possible to use on the occasion, and because the best use that such politeness can be put to is the use you may, with such facility to yourself, make of it on this occasion.

* * * * * *

"As you seem to wish to know more concerning young Haggitt, I think it necessary (as your letter

leads me to do) to make some *covert* enquiries whether he be or be not a sportsman, for of this I am at present ignorant. I know he was blamed by his tutors for making frequent excursions from college, but whether this was for the sake of field sports, or balls & assemblies, I know not, tho' I rather think the latter, to wch you will have no objection, as it must have serv'd to give him his polish.

* * * * * *

"I remember having seen him with his uncle at Vicars Hill about six years ago, that his person was very good, & manners very *prévenant* with me, as he seem'd to be endued with the greatest modesty & simplicity. God forbid, however, that I should assert that he is neither a knife-licker or a fork-tooth-picker; I can only say I did not remark that he was guilty of either of these mortal sins. I believe he certainly eat with a two-pronged fork, but this whether from necessity or choice I cannot aver. To be serious, I know no alternative between a young parson who has a tendency to a Bob Jerom, and a studious, & perhaps totally unpolished academic, in these times. . . . .

"Yours most devotedly,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Feb. 7th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . After all I must needs say that if I were you I would consider all I have written on the subject as mere waste-paper, and refer the choice of a rector entirely to her Ladyship; she has less whims, fancies, & vagaries, than either of us: for instance, were I to chuse I probably should chuse Holden, because he can play on the music, & for no better reason in the world. You seem inclined to Haggitt because there is the highest probability in the world that he will handle a four-prong'd fork in the true French mode; but are either your Lordship or I fit judges, with such prejudices about us? Now, as her Ladyship chuses your temporal steward, why should not she chuse your spiritual steward? You yourself have (or need have) as little to do with the one as the other, for it is by no means necessary you should give them a Sunday dinner, & I verily believe that half of the unbeneficed of the profession, after thanking your Lordship kindly for the income of the living, would thank you a second time as kindly for being excused from that ceremonial. . . . .

"Your truely devoted Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, near Rotherham* (for I find on coming here that is *now* the best direction), *February 17th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . As to your report, it was general enough to have reached York before it reached me. I gave it, however, no credence before I thus received it. My reflection upon it is simply this: that as staunch a Monarchy man as my *wine-merchant*[e] thinks me, I am bold enough to say that the Constitution can do without a Queen provided it has a King, and, therefore, if during the next generation we should have none, I know nobody that would be injur'd except Ladys of the Bed-chamber (I speak this with *all* submission to my Lady Harcourt), & Maids of Honour (I speak this with *no* submission to my good friend Harry Vernon). . . . .

"Yours most devotedly,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 12th*, 1786.

". . . . . I BELIEVE, when I talked of the maxims of M. de la Rochfaucault, I should rather have talked of the single maxim of my wine-merchant's father, that 'every man has his price,' for this I verily believe is the leading one in that person's

[e] Horace Walpole.

political code; but this will be better to be discussed in conversation than letter.

"I rejoice that the Jersey family will be benefitted by the late death, but *quelle diablesse?*

"Can you send me any comfortable news about my poor old Curate Delap's Tragedy? The 'Morning Chronicle' (in w^ch a most formidable dramatic censor constantly writes) gives but a sad account of it: I have a fellow-feeling for all damned poets, after the private damnation of poor Anacovana, w^ch, private as it was, amounted to a total extermination, owing entirely to Miss F.'s black eyes & my Lady's new birthday gown. Well, Taste forgive them! & believe me theirs & your Lordship's,

"Most devotedly,

"W. MASON.

"We have got quit of our bailiffs, and I am now lord paramount of Aston—Huzza!"

"*Aston, March 30th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I sincerely rejoice to learn that you found your Rector elect so much to your mind as to externals, and I hope he will prove so in internals also, if you do not spoil him by too many *attentions* and *politesies;* at all chances you have certainly done an act of great charity, for the father, a most worthy man, has a very numerous family to provide for. You must expect to hear much approbation of your choice

from the Duke of Montagu, who has long known & respects the father greatly. By the way, that said Duke is at present high in my good graces; he sent me lately a bill of two hundred pounds for the use of the widow Hoyland & her daughters; this he did without any solicitation, and in a way highly flattering to myself. If there were many more such men in the world as his Grace, I am persuaded we could do without animal magnetism. But as luxury, & practical if not speculative atheism, increases as well here as in France, no wonder we fall into superstitious practices; for fatalism is full as productive of its omens & prodigies, & as much prone to blind credulity, as the grossest religious bigotry. I am led to this grave reflection by the pamphlet you sent me; it amused me greatly, & I will take care to return it safe. I take for granted the Cardinal de Rohan is as much of an *esprit fort* as Cagliostro is a clever charlatan, and I verily believe that the Q. of France would have faith in the Count's predictions. . . . .

"Your Lordship's

"Most faithfully devoted,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, April 24th*, 1786.

". . . . LET me rejoice that the choice of your new Rector is so agreeable to you. I repeat it, how-

ever, again, don't spoil him. Your Lordship's ratiocinations, or rather assertions, on this subject of spoiling have the merit of being perfectly characteristical, & therefore I like them much better than if they were logical, & should think it a sin to controvert them. I shall therefore take it for gospel that a university boy of three & twenty has an understanding just on a par with a man of the world on the wrong side of forty, & all the other paradoxes with wch your last most agreable letter abounds. I shall make, therefore, no other answer to it than that I sincerely wish they may all of them, in this instance, be found as true as at all adventures they are amusing.

* * * * * *

"I conclude that I shall have done Mr. Haggitt no harm by postponing my congratulations till his institution & induction were compleatly over. . . . .

"Your most obliged

"& sincere Servant,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, June 2nd*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I have a great favour to beg of your Lordship & Lady Harcourt, & if I could join King, Lords, & Commons to forward my request it would perhaps not be unnecessary on so great an occasion; it is in short this: to entreat the Empress of Tragedy, who is to mount

her throne at York in August, at the races, graciously to suffer the whole family of Morritt to kiss her hand and invite her to a good dinner. But there is a degree of selfishness in this request of theirs, wch I believe there commonly is in ev'ry expression of loyalty: they want by this means to procure for poor Mrs. Ann a great pleasure from a very little of her *recitation*. You know that I believe this good woman has now nothing but her intellect left, but this in as perfect a degree as ever, therefore your Lordship can easily guess what a supreme treat this would be to her, and I need not say a syllable more to touch Lady Harcourt's & your humanity on the occasion.

"You will, perhaps, ask me why I do not solicit Mrs. Siddons myself? The truth is, that ever since she acted Elfrida in London I have looked upon myself as in a state of theatrical damnation, and therefore should never think of carrying my presumption to such a pitch; I have no other way, therefore, but by your joint mediation to expect this point to be carried. The rest of the family to my knowledge engaged one side of the theatre four months ago for the time she was to play in the dog-days. . . . .

"I am, to both my Lady & my Lord,

"Theirs most devotedly,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, June 23rd*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I had purposed going round by Sudbury, and I now find it will be much the most convenient so to do, as Chatsworth, whither I must first go on the above acc^{t}, is not very far from Sudbury, so that many miles will be saved by taking that route. However, that I may arrive at Nuneham the sooner, I will postpone my visit to M^{r}. Dixon at Oddington, & go over to him whenever any royal or too *tonish* guests (animals w^{ch} I am equally afraid of) may chance to make my removal eligible to me, & not perhaps ineligible to your Lordship, as I do not believe that you would wish that birds w^{ch} are *not* of a feather should flock together.

"I rec^{d} your last very obliging letter at Rokeby, & that part of the family w^{ch} were there desired me to express how much they were obliged to you for having applied to M^{rs}. Siddons on the occasion. I said all that I could in corroboration of your Lordship's good reasons that the party should be small, but without much effect, as the family, who are all equally desirous of hearing her, & think they have an equal right to do so, cannot be less than a dozen; they have promised, however, that no person except M^{r}. Burgh, who had already been invited, should be added to the persons in the house. I fear it will go off awkwardly, but it cannot be helped; nothing but the great desire

I had of giving M^{rs}. Ann a little temporary pleasure in her present deplorable estate could have prompted me to ask your Lordship to make the application. . . . .

"Your sincerely devoted,

"W. MASON."

"*Oddington, Sunday noon, July 23rd*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am much obliged to your Lordship for letting me know what Gallic as well as *Jewish* society you are to be blest with untill Thursday morning. I deem, therefore, that if I arrive at Nuneham that noon, I shall come time enough for my own comfort as well as that of your Lordship. If, however, any new intervention should take place, as, for instance, the Prince of Mechlinburgh & his suite, or a dinner of bishops & Oxford doctors, I beg a line directed, not near Stowe, but Chipping Norton. If no intelligence of this sort comes on Wednesday I shall set out early the next morning; in the meanwhile I lump all my respects together for your Lordship to separate & deliver, except that with w^{ch} I subscribe myself,

"Your devoted Servant,

"W. MASON.

"M^{r}. Dixon begs his respects & thanks for your invitation, but cannot leave home at present."

"*York, Dec. 11th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The embalment, as you are pleas'd to call it, is on the opposite page. I have sent another copy to Lord Jersey, & after your joint consultation as to its propriety, you must tell me whether it is to be midwifed into the world by my Scotch printer or be still-born. Burgh and I can do nothing about Carfax without a measured drawing. If it were mine I would make a house for Michael under it, and place it where Courtenay Castle was to have stood, but then that hideous tapistry—let us say no more about it, but congratulate you for having not only *Bocardo*[f] in possession, but Carfax in reversion.

"As to Mr. Haggitt's hill, all I know is that if it be not ploughed down before I come I can do nothing with it; if you only tell Jo. Sabull to make it such a hill as the elms stand upon between the house and the river, he will need no further direction. Mr. H. ought certainly to have all the land between his house & the pale, except a space of about twenty foot *close to the pale* left for a road; the ground marks itself. . . . .

"Very sincerely yours,
"W. MASON."

[f] *Bocardo*, the name of an ancient gate at Oxford, since pulled down; Mr. Mason, in derision, gave the same name to an iron gate in the wire-fence that for some time crossed the terrace at Nuneham.

TO THE EARLS OF JERSEY & HARCOURT, &c.

SONNET.

"ILLUSTRIOUS pair! who held that poet dear
Whose blameless life my friendly pen portrays,
And marks the merit of his various lays
Where native Fancy flows in Diction clear;
O may propitious Fate that merit bear
To times when Taste shall weave the wreath of praise,
By modes disdain'd in these fantastic days;
Such wreaths as classic heads were proud to wear.
But, if no future ear applauds his strain,
If mine, alike, to Lethe's lake descends,
Yet, while aloof on Memory's buoyant main
The gale of Fame your genuine worth extends,
Still shall our names this fair distinction gain,
That Villiers & that Harcourt call'd us friends.

"W. MASON.

"*York, Dec. 11th*, 1786."

"*York, Jan. 3rd*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,—As I have two obliging letters from your Lordship to answer I will take a frightfully large sheet of the English size for the purpose, that I may not seperate what I have to say upon 6 or 8 pages, wch, however French it may be, seems to me not very commodious. And first with respect to the Sonnet, wch you term *high*

scented: I have only to say in its vindication that in whatever estimation I may hold my own poetical powers, be that either too high or too low, I have so justly mean a one of the *taste of these fantastic days* that it leaves me no reason to think, much less to wish, that I should long be regarded as a poet, if the next age proceeds as rapidly as this has done to the very bathos of false criticism. If, therefore, I had not held the world to be *already* turned upside down, the thought w^ch^ runs thro' the piece would never have struck me, but in this view the wish of being remembered merely as your Lordship's & Lord Jersey's friend becomes, under such circumstances, no ill-timed or unbecoming ambition, *voila toute.* If, therefore, the world should think that the Sonnet had a *fumette,* and should stop their noses at it, I would not alter an iota of it to accommodate it to their delicate nostrills. I shall, however, readily suppress the whole if either of my Sonnetted Earls chuse it; but as any subject is more agreable to me than my own verses, I shall turn over the page and quit it.

"Your Lordship's intended new room for the *deposit,* or rather *gibbet,* of the tapistry puts me in mind of that laudable ambition you once heretofore shewed of emulating good M^rs^. Shandy; because you cannot hang it in the best place you are resolved to hang it in the worst, nay, to make

a good place bad for the purpose; but I spare you. I suppose your request in your second letter of a copy of our cathedral chair is prompted by the motive of having it to sit in while your Lordship is in the solitary enjoyment of surveying that geographical treasure. 'Procul, Procul este Profani!' I beg your pardon for writing Latin, but I know you can construe it without the help of M^r^. Haggitt, if you please. As to the chair itself, your Lordship knows I have an exact copy, or a *facsimile,* which, being a term authorized both by your Lordship & by the Society of Antiquaries, I hope, tho' Latin, I may be permitted to use.

"This chair, you may remember, I promised at my demise to bequeath to Courtenay Castle, but since that time I have unfortunately made it too modern to be any proper accompanyment to the said tapistry; I have given it a stuffed back & cushion made of some crimson & black velvet, w^ch^ my relation, M^rs^. Wordsworth, gave me, & w^ch^ she assured me was my Great Grandmother's best petticoat. Now as I cannot trace her existence beyond *Temp. Car. Secund.,* & cannot prove that it was the first crimson & black velvet that ever appeared in England, tho' it is ugly enough to lay claim to such point of precedence, I should never presume to destine it to that honour. Add to this that I have ornamented the arms, legs, &c., & all that

the said petticoat does not cover, with a species of mock Marquetteria of my own invention, in a Gothic pattern w^ch^ imitates old walnut-tree, box & ebony, & w^ch^ forms the trefoils, &c. On the shield between the legs, a most commodious situation, I have also in the same manner, but with yellow on a scarlet ground, portray'd three passant animals—whether tygers or lions is left to the Antiquarians to decide—w^ch^ have backs as long as weesels, so,—  I just finished this most capital work before I left Aston, & it now stands in my best bedchamber waiting for the Bp. of Osnabrugh to repose himself in it when he visits me in his way to his domain near Green Hamerton, where your Lordship once made so comfortable a dinner.

"Having now told you what my chair is in its present improved state, I will tell you what the original chair is in its decayed one. The bars that sustained the back have been long lost, & it is now cramped together with a piece of iron, the form of the whole is, notwithstanding, perfect; the wood it is made of is supposed to be beech cover'd all over with leather, pieces of w^ch^ still remain, & over that cloth of gold & fringe, of w^ch^, too, there are a few tatters. Now the questions I would put to your Lordship before I order a copy are whether you would have it of the original wood, or oak? for either, without some added ornament, will be unsuf-

ferably ugly; & 2dly, whether it would not be best to send the chair from hence in pieces? for the whole will easily be put together by any common joiner if a drawing be sent with it, whereas if it is made up here and cased, the carriage will be more than double its worth; mine, I think, made of Sycamore, cost either 20 or 24 shillings. As to the history of it, I will get Burgh to write it, with a charge to make Edward the First as well as Edward the Third crowned in it, but to carry its formation as far back as Severus, w^ch^ may easily be done, for it is certainly more of a Roman than Gothic form; and as the shield is of oak, a different material from the rest of the chair, there is ev'ry Antiquarian reason in the world to believe that a modern Anglo-Saxon appendage.

"After talking of this chair, it is letting my ideas dreadfully down to think about such a thing of yesterday as Carfax. However, I must needs say, both in Burgh's and my own name, that when the drawing arrives we will give our best opinions about it. In the meantime let me conjure your Lordship by the manes of Brown, & by ev'ry thing that ever had, has, or will have the name of taste, not to place the said Carfax in his part of the garden; I am sure you will repent it when you see how incongruous an object it will there appear. But I fear if I say more I shall rouse the said Shandean spirit w^ch^ is in you, therefore

I will conclude abruptly with my best respects to my Lady, who I fear will not now have any time to transcribe the verses you lately mention. Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Yours very sincerely,
"W. MASON."

"*York, February 8th*, 1787.

"I AM, my dear Lord, in what Mr. Gray called the fever of packing-up, & on the eve of my residence, I can therefore only find time to thank you for your two last kind letters, & for the political pamphlet w^ch^ Miss Fauquier sent me the post before, & for which, to my shame be it spoken, I have not yet thanked her. I think just as your Lordship, her, & the majority of the people of England think about it, notwithstanding the *people's* answer to it, w^ch^ I have also seen. Had the party from whence that answer comes been till this time in power, I am convinced there would have been neither king nor people in the country; but one commanding aristocracy, with the East Indies in its belly. But I have no time for politics. The more important business of this letter is to tell you that the Regall-archiepiscopale chair set off some days ago by the carrier, w^ch^ the inclosed card identifies, so in case of miscarriage enquiry must be made at the warehouse; 'twill, however, hardly arrive in Town till four or five

days after you receive this. 'Tis an absolute facsimile, with no addition save two bars at the back to keep it together instead of one iron rod now at the top. I am persuaded it is rather of Roman than Anglo-Saxon origin, and that the shield on the fore-legs is a Gothic appendage of yesterday only. You will find proofs of the same pattern & figure in Montfaucon.

"I have made a little alteration in the Sonnet in order to give it a more inscriptive turn, & an easier grammatical construction; to do this, however, I am obliged to discard the epithet *illustrious*, w^ch^, perhaps, neither of your Lordships will quarrel with me for altering, if you approve the other alteration. I write it now thus:—

"Ye gen'rous pair, to whom the bard was dear
Whose blameless life my friendly pen portrays,
Accept, combin'd with that, his latest Lays,
Where still young Fancy flows in diction clear.

"This, as 'Variety' & 'The Goat's Beard,' &c., were written at an advanced age, I think will be more peculiar & appropriate: in the next line read *their* merit for *that*.

"I am sorry that your Lordship did not send the plan of Carfax as it is; I wish to know the exact height to the very top of it. I remember when we set up poles on the intended spot some years ago, we found 24 feet a competent height,

and I wish Carfax may reach as high, w^ch^ it may perhaps easily be made to do by a little elevation of the ground, & a plinth either of common wall-stone or brick; if so, it will make a conspicuous object, &, tho' not a castle, will have an appearance of something similar to one of Queen Eleanor's crosses, & certainly appear monumental. . . . .

"W. M."

"*York, February 17th*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . As Carfax is of the altitude of above thirty feet I have no fear of its making a respectable object on the spot intended for it. My friend Burgh, however, wishes for an alteration in its base, & having taken a sketch of it means to give you his idea in another drawing. I tell him I am certain you would not make a single alteration for the world, but he says, as the base is confessedly not the original base, he thinks otherwise.

"As to the chair, I am glad you like it, but I must needs own to your Lordship that neither of the two bars in the back are in the original, w^ch^ is only held together at the top by an old iron curtain-rod, & the two upright pieces w^ch^ that rod holds together are so worm-eaten that the joiner & I could not find where any bars had been inserted; for my own part, I am persuaded that there must have been originally a square frame in that part, stuffed, perhaps, and afterwards cover'd

with cloth of gold, for some of the fringe still hangs about the side bars. Without this I see not how it were possible for King Edward ever to lean his royal back against it. As to the rest, there is mould'ring authority for every inch of it.

"I own I am as pleased with M^r^. Pitt with respect to his conduct concerning Hastings as your Lordship seems to be; but will every body be so pleased? are there not certain, &c., &c., &c., &c., w^ch^ will warp the judgment of other folks? Has not M^rs^. Hastings her friends? I have heard that when my sage Lord Mansfield heard last sessions how the said Pitt had voted in the Benares business, 'then,' said he, 'from that moment were his days number'd as a Minister.' Be it so, he will still be better in my eyes than a Minister, better than a Lord Mansfield, better than an Archbishop of York, nay better than——.

"I have heard, too, that when Prettyman kissed hands for his mitre of her gracious Majesty, she ungraciously refused to say a single syllable to him; is this so? Tell me, Lady H^t^., and twirl your diamond key while you are telling it. . . . .

"Believe me yours as ever,

"W. M."

"*Aston, March 8th*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . I will turn to that much more interesting theme, our Cathedral Chair;

and here I am sorry to say that I fear the story of King Edward the Third's being crowned in it is apocryphal, and must have arisen from Dr. Burgh's mistake between his Coronation and his Marriage, for of the latter being solemnized in York Cathedral with Queen Philippa there is no doubt. I have looked over Drake, who, tho' he says 'that many Kings of England have been crowned in it,' mentions none since the Conquest but Richard the Third.

"For my own part, I verily believe the chair to have been Saxon, if not Roman; the half-circular legs are undoubtedly of Roman fashion, as you may see in Montfaucon; the shield is made of oak, wch the rest of the chair is not; the workman guessed it to be beech or chesnut, but it is so very old and worm-eaten that it is difficult to determine the wood. Add to this that Sandford will shew you that it is totally dissimilar from all the Gothic chairs wch he has delineated from Great Seals, &c., & also totally unlike the Coronation Chair at Westminster. Were I to say that I believe Paulinus was consecrated Archbishop in it in the year 625, or thereabouts, you would scout me, not only because his name ends in *us*, but because it is a date by 600 years prior to the building of the Minster; yet, as I verily think it older than the Minster itself, I will stand to my assertion, & call the shield, wch is the only Gothic

thing about it, as I did before, a mere modern *appliqué*. . . .

"Believe me, my dear Lord,
"Most truely & devotedly yours,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 29th*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . I am glad you have such a man as Mr. Haggitt with you, who is too young to be splenatic, & who certainly, as yet, sees the world as it goes in broad sunshine. Your Lordship, I fancy, does not always see it so, no more than myself, and therefore it will be well for you, for your own comfort, to borrow his eyes occasionally, & as old Richardson the painter said 'he saw Homer & the Classics thro' his son,' for wch Hogarth spitted the said son on a tellescope, so do you spit Haggitt, but this only on very urgent occasions. My kind compliments attend him, & my best *devoirs* her Ladyship.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,
"Very cordially yours,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, May 23rd*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is now near Whitsuntide, & I have not (to my shame be it written) congratulated you on your return from so long & fatiguing a journey as you took at Easter, from the pain of seeing, not of eating with, two-pronged

forks at Henley, and all the other indiscribable *dissagremens* incident to travellers. But I am told you was amply rewarded by finding your new room turn out quite to your mind; I am afraid, however, that it will not turn out entirely to mine, unless certain of your oldest ancestors are removed into it, for tho' in the passage where they now shine with so much antique lustre, leading to the royal bedchamber, they cannot do much *national* harm, as our gracious Queen, I suspect, is past child-bearing, yet I am clear they would find themselves more at home amid the old tapistry.

"My advice, therefore, is that *the Knight of the Fancy Nose*, who came from Worcester, and *the Dame* with her hands so, should hang over the chimney, and that the rest should be distributed in



proper order between the windows, w^ch^, if they answer no other purpose, will save the expence of French glasses, and perhaps be as agreable both to my Lord Leicester and my wine-merchant[g], tho' the latter enjoys the unique talent of blending Gothic and Chinese, French and English, Roman lacrymatories, German teckel glasses, ivory crucifixes. Tuscan vases, &c., &c., &c., in one delectable whole.

* * * * * *

"I have lost much by being so long in your

[g] Horace Walpole.

Lordship's epistolary debt, on acc^t^ of the Richmond House Play, heir apparent negotiations, &c., &c., but you can make it up to me when you please. But I would rather hear about Merlin's Swinging Machine than anything that is done at Carlton House, and I am in doubt whether D^r^. Priestly's letter about the Test Act, or General Burgoyne's Epilogue be the better composition; pray tell me.

"In the meantime I will give your Lordship a good anecdote of Archbishop Birch. When he heard of M^r^. Pitt's first voting against Hastings he said it was impossible; but being convinced of the fact, he then declar'd he had acted *falsely, capriciously, & treacherously:* these were the identical epithets, for he that told me the story took them down. His Son, the immaculate resident at Benares, wears four clean shirts a-day, and throws his dirty hankerchiefs into the fire to save washing. I set out with only one anecdote, and I have given your Lordship two, match them if you can, even after reading (as I suppose you have done and I have not) S^r^. John Hawkins's 'Life of D^r^. Johnson.' I beg my best respects to her Ladyship, and compliments to M^r^. Haggitt.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Yours most truely & devotedly,

"W. MASON."

"*Breton Ferry, August 23rd*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You are, I imagine, by this time retired from the *Fête* of Royalty, and I am about to retire from the *Fête* of Picturesque Beauty, w^ch^ of us the best satisfied I presume not to say, but this I must say on my own part, that I never beheld a scene, or rather a variety of scenes, more exquisitely charming than this place affords. It suits my taste much more than ev'n Mount Edgecombe; and Persfield, w^ch^ I saw in my way, is a hog-sty to it, for the Wye there (which I saw at spring-tide, & consequently in its best colour) is always muddy enough to resemble the filth that animal loves to wallow in.

"Here, indeed, the sea-views, on acc^t^ of the too-far retiring tide, must yield to Mount Edgecombe many hours in the day, but the land scenes are infinitely more bold and varied, and not broke in upon, in point of pastoral beauty, by docks & arsenals; and, tho' ev'ry thing here except the hills is on a much smaller scale, yet that scale is large enough for my eye, w^ch^ loves a landscape better than (what Brown properly called) a stare, & w^ch^ the generality deem a fine prospect. On this acc^t^, while other folks climb hills I keep below in the vallies, & do from taste what they think I do from lazyness. As to within doors, I have lived very comfortably, and of the bugbear Welch Squires which your Lordship

attempted to frighten me with, I have not seen more than three of them, one of whom appear'd with a bouquet so well arranged that neither your Lordship nor M^r^. Haggitt would have disdained to stick it in your button-hole. Another, while he talked Stonehewer even to the very point of annihilation, gave Palgrave & myself, who sat on the opposite side, such supreme delight that we even expresst it in a way too open for the rules of strict *bienseance*, & were near being exterminated by Miss Fauquier for our *rudesse*,—and here the descriptive part of my epistle terminates. . . .

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Your *vraiment devouèe*,

"W. MASON."

"*York, Nov. 13th*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Your Lordship's account of the festivitys at Windsor in your last gave me wonderfull, tho' I will not say compleat, satisfaction. The tilts & tournaments were wanting, & these noblest & most rational of royal amusements I dispair of ever seeing revived till, on the demise of the Duke of Montagu, you become Governor; then, & then only, & not till your Lordship has broken your first launce, or cloven some discourteous knight's helmet, shall I agree with you, that these fêtes 'were such as were proper for a King of England to make in Windsor Castle.'

"As to the fêtes w^ch^ Princes of England make in our northern clime, are they not written in the 'York Courant,' & from thence transcribed into every newspaper in the kingdom? but I beg you to believe no other tales than those papers tell. That men were tyed up by the neck in sacks, & that pigs' tails were soaped, may be true; but that royal hands were employed in either of these offices is quite apochryphal. Attend only, I beg your Lordship, to what is recorded of hawking with Colonel Thornton, for that is a legitimate antiquarian amusement, and was practised so long ago as when the two royal brothers, King Edel & King Adelbright reigned in Northumberland, then called Düxa.

* * * * * *

"We seem here to be perfectly well satisfied with M^r^. Pitt for keeping us out of war, & at the same time restoring us to our national honour, w^ch^ to be sure has been so much *fletri* that I had despair'd of his political rouge to give it colour. The said M^r^. Pitt we are told, from higher authority than ever spoke before in Yorkshire, 'is a good financier, but would never do to carry on a war,' a decent & a prudent assertion you will own to be made in public company. My truest respects to her Ladyship.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,
"Most truely yours,
"W. MASON."

"*York, Jan. 28th*, 1788.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am inclined to purchase rather than beg your pardon at present for my long silence, by inclosing an elegy, on the back of w^ch^ is written all that I need say on the subject, only observe that it is the joint property of Lady Harcourt & your Lordship, & that you both of you are bound as *Bone of one Bone, and Flesh of one Flesh*, religiously to adhere to the conditions on which this poem is intrusted with you, & that if any person whatever should say that 'they are sure you would permit them to let them have a copy with my consent,' you must answer that you are sure I will never consent. . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"Very *devouee*,
"W. MASON.

"The few people to whom I send this will be strangely out as to my reasons for writing it, but I will let your Lordship into the *true* cause. It was to furnish you with a number of *charming* reasons for converting your churchyard at Nuneham into a third flower-garden, *Verbum sat sapienti*, or *un Mot seulment pour un Philosophe!*"

"*Aston, Feb. 17th*, 1788.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Much as I wish for a speedy letter from your Lordship, I will not

promise I shall speedily answer it, for my attack on my Scotch doctors will for some time occupy all my thoughts; I write it in the way of propositions, & am so charmingly logical that it will surprize you. I trust if you read it you will learn by it to make a syllogism, a thing which I flatter myself the Master of Jesus was never able to teach you. Mercy on me! what a mercy it was that the *Prince* did not go to Oxford. How do you think the said Master would have looked if he had been commanded to creep on all fours with the pelican on his back, & his wife for whipper-in; 'tis a blessing such mischance fell on Mr. Haggitt & my celebrated University, & I hope he is sufficiently weaned from the paps of his *Alma Mater* to say *Amen.*

"I dread Lady Harcourt's & her royal mistress's frowns for what I have made my Quakers say to three august personages. Lay me at the feet of the former in a state of the most absolute humiliation, & believe me, my dear Lord (with best Compts to Mr. Haggitt),

"Most cordially yours,

"W. MASON."

* * * * * *

"*Aston, March 14th*, 1788.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... If your Lordship has seen Stonehewer lately he would tell you all that

is decided about Mr. Whitehead's papers. I was heartily glad to return them, for having made use of so few in the Life, &c., the General's *better part* might have thought I kept them for another publication. I wrote by the last post both to Lord Jersey & the General, saying I had sent them by the carrier, but unfortunately, tho' I had sent them, & in good time, to the public-house here, where the waggon stops, I have since found that the said waggon, on acct of our wretched roads, went this last week by Doncaster instead of Worsop, so the box is brought back, & when I shall be able to send it I know not; I much wish, however, you would be so kind as to acquaint Lord Jersey of the cause of this delay, who will tell it to the General, &c. My friend Jacob would, I trust, willingly carry the message.

* * * * * *

"If your Lordship wishes to see me mumbled by a true Scot in the most delicate sort of Scotch irony, you must look for an account of the Memoirs in the '*English* Review' of last month. My friend Murray is the printer, & I trust the writer also; I assure you it will entertain you extremely. Robson sent it me down in a pacquet with other books.....

"Believe me to be, my dear Lord,

"Your dull but faithful Servt,

"W. MASON."

* * * * * *

"*Aston, May 27th*, 1788.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... I pity your Lordship, who is condemned to hear the eloquence of the Burkes, &c., &c., rather than that of Thrushes & Blackbirds, which are the only orators I have attended to during one of the finest springs I ever remember. One of the latter is now warbling thro' one of my *open* windows, to tell me that his mate is now hatching her second brood in my laurel hedge, with the same security that she did the same thing in the same place last year. I hope, however, you will be able to hear the same kind of innocent rhetorick in a little time at Nuneham, as I suppose when Mr. Sheridan has said his long-expected say, you will be at liberty to retire to a better atmosphere than Westminster Hall.

"For myself, I feel no kind of inclination to stir from this quiet spot, & unless Mrs. Verelot, when she returns from London, should bring Sr. Charles Kent into my neighbourhood, wch family connections will oblige her to do, I shall hardly prevail on myself to quit Aston, & as I now take short journeys on horseback (indeed I do) I think it will absolve me from taking long ones in a post-chaise, for the sake of what they call that necessary thing, exercise. Yet, when I consider on the other hand that I am losing all my teeth, I sometimes think that this is the last season in wch I ought to appear in what they call good company,

such, for instance, as come uninvited to Nuneham, before whom I should not chuse to mumble a French crust as poor Whitehead did; in short, I am at present undetermined as to all my summer & even autumnal motions.

* * * * * *

"As I have nothing further to say that may make this letter worth reading, I will get my curate to transcribe a little critique (much too panegyrical for myself either to transcribe or assent to) on my Elegy, wch was sent me. It is certainly so well written that it will entertain you, but further this deponent saieth not. It was occasioned by my saying that were I to publish the poem all the world would say I did it merely to imitate Gray's, & in this view, flattering as it is, it yet contains some just & uncommon discriminations. *The wakeful love* wch your Lordship mentions is perhaps a little obscure; it might be alter'd to the Wakeful *Hind*, yet I think the hand in the next line personifies *love* sufficiently. I beg my truest respects to Lady Harcourt, & kindest compts to Mr. Haggitt.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Yours very devotedly,

"W. MASON.

"Poor Dibden, who is going to the East Indies, has been a month in Alderson's parish writing his

Tour, to w^ch^ I subscribed. It is worth your seeing tho' of a very Shandeian kind. He is an entertaining man in his way, & I saw him two or three times, but as it was after his book went to the press I escaped being mentioned in it, w^ch^ I should certainly have been, we agreed so perfectly in our sentiments about Handel's music, &c., &c. Mercy on me! had all I said to him been put into print, Lady H. must never after have owned me even for a common acquaintance."

"*Rokeby, July* 31*st*, 1788.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... I wish I could transport your Lordship without corporeal fatigue to the place from w^ch^ I now write, w^ch^ is one of the spots where Queen Nature keeps a very magnificent court, with the Greata & Tees rumbling around her through a margin of rocks & woods of the sublimest cast, all of w^ch^, tho' almost contiguous to the mansion, is not seen from it, but in their stead a small park, w^ch^ is as *peignée* & as *riante* as Wimbleton, & thro' w^ch^, with Alderson's assistance, I have made an approach of equal beauty to that at Wimbleton. Two sets of features so different, so distinct, yet withal so united, I think are not to be found in the kingdom.

"I left M^r^. Gibbon where your Lordship did, at his two first volumes, since w^ch^ I have just dipt into the last, and will venture to assert that those

who read them will read them more for the sake of the notes than the text, and I shrewdly suspect that most of our fine ladies will learn Greek for the purpose of relishing them compleatly. I should not wonder if my wine-merchant immediately took down his picture of Lady Craven, & put that of the Empress Theodora in her place as a lady of greater talents & a more inventive genius. Besides, an imperial w—— is so much more consequential, & so much more befitting the cabinet of an antiquarian virtuoso, that I think your Lordship should advise your dear friend immediately to adopt this idea.

"You mistook me when I recommended 'Dibden's Tour' as a book for you to purchase; there are not above two or three letters in it worth reading, & those relate merely to Music & Handel; *au reste*, tho' you will find as much self-importance & affectation as in Gibbon, yet here & there you will find periods more naturally turned than in that great historian, &, in spite of trash & vulgarity, be led to hold the letter-writing fidler as high in point of real genius as the history-writing *petit maitre*. . . .

"Believe me to be,
"My dear Lord,
"Yours most cordially,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Dec. 5th*, 1788.

"I ASK a thousand pardons, my dear Lord, for not having answer'd your last letter so soon as you requested me to do. The truth was I attended more to the former part of it than the latter, in w^ch^ that request was made; neither do I now conceive that during the administration of M^r^. Pitt your caution could be of much moment. That administration may perhaps even now be at an end, & if affairs take that course that they are likely to take, it cannot end too soon for his reputation, nor, as the Bps. say, for our sins. But truce with a subject on w^ch^ I, who am so far from the scene of action, can write little to the purpose, *Parlons d'autres choses.*

"Your Lordship may remember that you requested me to write an inscription for poor Whitehead, and nam'd the place where you wished to inscribe it. An idea struck me, but I made you no reply, a way I usually take when I am uncertain whether I can write anything that I shall either approve myself, or that I think may satisfy others. However, I have made an attempt, w^ch^ I send you on a seperate paper; if it happens to please you, & you should think of using it, you ought to be apprized that you will add to the faults w^ch^ the author of the 'Royal Recollections' can find *only* to impute to Nuneham; that strange pamphlet was lately put into my hands,

& it shews clearly the spirit of the party w^ch^ (to use the same episcopal phrase over again) is *for our sins* pre-ordained to govern this land.

"Let us quit English for French politics: M^rs^. Morrit of Rokeby sent me the other day a French epigram at the bottom of her letter, written, as I shrewdly suspect, by her eldest son, a very clever boy now at Auxerre, too good a schollar at sixteen to go to college, & who, therefore, is to spend a year or two in France with a private tutor, whom I recommended. This epigram I have answer'd in the same lingo, *Voila! Voila!*

EPIGRAM.

"'SUR le Lit de Justice,
Ami! sais tu ce qu'on dit?
Dame Justice est desolée,
Le Roi le voudroit voir au lit;
On dit qu'al la vidée.'

REPONSE.

"MON Ami! je regarde comme les petites riens
Les Nouvelles ce qu'on dit est certaine,
C'est toujours la mode des Rois tres Chrétiennes,
Dame Justice est leur antienne Putain.

"Mercy on us! and send that in ten years hence England may not afford cause for similar epigrams. You see, while I am scribbling anything either to amuse your Lordship and myself, I cannot help

recurring to one idea w^ch^ is ever uppermost in my head; indeed & indeed I tremble for my country. If the debates, or whatever passed yesterday, can afford any consolation I beg you to send the result to, my Lord,

"Your truely affectionate Servant,

"W. MASON.

"My best respects to her Ladyship, &c."

INSCRIPTION.

"HARCOURT & friendship this memorial raise
Near to that oak where Whitehead oft reclin'd,
While Art and Nature gave his eye to gaze
On charms congenial to his polish'd mind.
Ye sons of Fire! Ye souls of giant size!
Be yours to scorn, of Fashion's plaudit vain,
The bard that strove to please but not surprize,
That bade Discretion modulate his strain.
Enough for him, if those, the Votrys true
Of taste combin'd with reason, wandering here,
Give to their poet what, when justly due,
Surpasses praise, the tribute of a tear[h]."

"*Aston, Dec.* 11*th*, 1788.

"I AM much obliged to you, my dear Lord, for answering my letters at this critical moment so speedily. I am indeed exceedingly anxious to know either the best or the worst that the parliamentary decisions will produce. Above all

[h] These lines were altered, and appear in the third volume of these papers in the form in which they were inscribed on the cenotaph near Whitehead's Oak in Brown's-walk at Nuneham.

things I wish to know how Willis came to be the person to whom this most important of all charges was intrusted? you know, I suppose (but *entre nous* be it spoken if you do not), that it was to his care M^rs^. H.'s mother was intrusted, & tho' he made a temporary cure once, if not twice, yet in the end she (at his house) threw herself out of the window; of w^ch^ fall, after languishing some time, she died. M^r^. Haggitt's father, with my concurrence, put poor Hoyland under his care, who, mad as he was, and as he continued to the day of his death, had yet cunning enough to be too wise for his doctor, & behav'd so as to persuade him that his cure was effected. He therefore dismissed him as cured, tho' to my certain knowledge just as bad as he went to him.

"He has, however, certainly had much practice, & knows undoubtedly the best mode of intimidation, &c., by w^ch^ such unfortunate persons become tractable. Yet mercy on us! Mercy on the nation! to think that all we are, all we shall be as a nation, depends upon the *ipse dixit* of such a man. I wish I was at his ear to whisper him that in case the ministry be chang'd he will be turned out too, & our asylum doctor put in his place by the F. W^m^. interest, w^ch^ is by no means an improbable supposition. . . .

"Most cordially yours,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Jan. 14th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I inclose a letter, &c., w^ch^ I rec^d^ the other day from Robson the bookseller with a very finely printed book called *Œuvres du Marquis de Vilette*. You will find for certain that this present was never intended *for me* when you have read M^r^. Henderson's letter, who, tho' he teaches *la belle* & *la bonne* English, does not seem to write it either *bellely* or *bonnely*. The book was certainly meant for a Mason[1] who writ an essay, w^ch^ I never read, on 'Self Knowledge,' & who, as I always conceived, was either a Dissenting Minister, or a Master of an Academy.

* * * * * *

"You perhaps know something of the author, who seems to me to have been to Voltaire what Bossy was to D^r^. Johnson; yet to do the Marquiss justice, he is a literary toadeater of as much more parts than Boswell as Voltaire had a greater genius than the Doctor. I have run over the pages and found in them some anecdotes that amused me. I beg my best respects to Lady Harcourt, & best compliments to M^r^. Haggitt, wishing your Lordship & your whole household many happy years. Le Petit Pa had left me before I could render *Les temoignages de votre tres profonde recognizance*. I suppose he is now in

[1] J. Mason, a Dissenting minister.

Madame Weddell's box at the opera, *ravi* with the inchanting tones of the Graziani.

"N.B. He has no more ear than a cat, but don't tell him so.

"Your Lordship's *devouée*,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Feb. 4th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . So now you have got a Regent, or are in a fair way to get one. My congratulations, therefore, shall be couched in the terms of the clown to Cleopatra, 'Yes, forsooth; I give you joy of the worm. This is most fallible, the worm's an odd worm. Look you, the worm is not to be trusted, but in the keeping of wise people; for indeed there is no goodness in the worm.' May the people be wise enough to keep him within these restrictions in w^ch^ the wisdom of Parliament has endeavour'd to place him, Amen & Amen.

"Let us talk of tripods, or anything that will keep worse thoughts out of our head. Your Lordship has been, I think, much too hasty in mounting that hobby-horse; I told you that the precise size should be fixed upon at the spot itself ere one is order'd, else I could have got you one cast here of the size of mine for half the money, for the Rotherham works are adroit in such matters; but tho' my mock tripod does very well for mag-

nitude in my little spot, I am more than dubious whether it will do where you mean to place yours. The tripod in or near the flower-garden at Blenheim, I think, is of much greater altitude & dimensions, & it did not appear to me to be too large. Shenston, if I recollect right, says in his 'Detached Thoughts on Gardening,' that vases are only ornamental when they are large, & this is true of all insulated, or, if you will, isolated objects. But when they have a near background it is not true, & the bush in your flower-garden proves it. But the object in question is detached entirely, *ergo*, it ought to be a large one or none at all.

"As to the inscription, Critic Stonehewer is right in one of his remarks, but if the other be admitted the whole must be changed. 'Ye sons of Fire' was Whitehead's own expression, and an excellent one to mark those Churchilian kind of writers whom I address. I had once put it—

"Ye sons of Fire! Genii of giant size!

and if this makes my meaning more intelligible I am willing to adopt it, for I like it full as well. But, as I said before, I looked upon this inscription when I sent it to you as a mere *ébauche*, to see whether you & our particular friends liked the general turn of it. I shall revise it again & again before it be actually inscribed.

"I agree with your Lordship in thinking that

there is no occasion for any prose to be prefixed, because your name appears in the verses as having erected it. My name also ought *not* to be subscribed; it is an unclassical mode, which, tho' Pope adopted and Whitehead follow'd, I never did in any of my Epitaphs.

* * * * * *

"Poor Camidge was with me a few days in the Christmas holidays, & much dispirited; as his mother, who had been about a year ago in the same situation as the K., & seem'd perfectly recover'd, had, after some months, relapsed again, & is now deem'd incurable. He, I am sure, felt as all sons ought to feel on such an occasion. . . .

"Your truely faithful Servt,

"W. MASON."

* * * * * *

"*Aston, February 16th*, 1789.

"I AM much obliged to you, my dear Lord, for the good intelligence wch your last brought me. God send it may continue, for our all depends upon it; not but I have my fears that if his Majesty should even speedily be able to resume the Kingly Office, the motley disappointed crew would be so exasperated as almost to fly out into direct rebellion; that wretch Burke certainly would.

"Lady Holdernesse sent down the letter to

a member of Parliament to Alderson; I have just read it, and think it a masterly piece of writing.

"Your Lordship blames me very justly for attempting to restrain your natural impetuosity, and yet I suspect, had I the honour to be as well acquainted with Mr. Edmund Burke, I should at times endeavour to restrain his. The fact is, that in both of you this said natural impetuosity seems to increase with your years, so that as in him, who is much older than you, it has risen from the utmost altitude of natural into the regions of unnatural, I have my fears you will do the same. Better, however, that it should be impetuous in bespeaking a tripod than in bespeaking a gallows, wch you know is a tripod also of *giant size*, and fit, therefore, for his genius.

* * * * * *

"It is impossible for me to fill up this letter except with egotisms, and these I know would but prompt your sarcastic smile. Were I to tell you that I reduced the system of coloring to three pigments only; that I am versifying the Book of Job; contriving a flue somewhat less expensive than your stove to warm my rectorial pew; inventing a new species of yeast to lighten my bread,—all these matters, tho' true, & as important as they are true, would only provoke your ridicule. . . . .

"Your most devoted Servt,

"W. MASON.

"At your Lordship's peril be it if your impetuosity leads you to inscribe the Tablet till it has had my last corrections. I have not time now to revise the inscription: I say, with Ann, Countess of Pembroke and Montgomery,—'my Name shall not stand.'"

"*Aston, March 1st*, 1789.

"THERE is not a man in the kingdom that rejoices more sincerely than I do in the King's happy recovery, nor, let me add, my dear Lord, more, as I think, sagely, for my joy first arises from the pleasing & humane reflection, that a creature of my own species, who had for some months lost his best faculty of reason, should, thro' Divine mercy, so far have had that faculty restor'd to him as gives us good cause to hope he may be enabled to perform the dutys of that station wch is allotted to him by Providence, with as much ability as he was naturally endued with; & in this point of view I can safely say that I felt as much for him as one man can feel for another, yet no more than for many individual lunatics wch it has been my misfortune to know better. I have heard women say, 'what a dreadful thing to think of a King in a strait waistcoat!' But, as a man, I own that I was struck with additional horror when I added another reflection to it, the ill consequences that might accrue from hence to my country. Then, indeed, I felt the idea in all its force, & predicted

in my own mind all the evils that his temporary successor might bring upon it in a single hour of ebriety, or even without ebriety from the influence of those wretches w^ch^ were known to be his misleaders. My prediction was more than fulfilled e'er the event took place, and I have now only to thank God, & to congratulate your Lordship and all honest men, that we are now likely to remain a nation while the King lives, w^ch^ I hope will be long enough to see me to my grave. But then—I leave the most ignorant of your footmen to finish the sentence.

* * * * * *

"There is a curious anecdote of Dr. Warren, w^ch^ I wish were propogated. The winter before this our silly great Squire —— was declar'd by the D^r^. to be afflicted with *a breaking-up of the brain.* This was the very phrase w^ch^ the Dean of York told me he had heard that Dr. W. had used. I answer'd I had been told of such disorders as concussions of the brain, & I suppose the D^r^. meant that; but the Dean was resolute as to the phrase. However this be, the Squire's brain is now, & has been for some months, so solder'd up by Dame Nature that it is just as good as ever it was, and therefore I fancy when the King's malady was first announc'd he did not venture to repeat his phrase, having found by woeful experience that broken brains, like broken bones, were curable. Had he used it, I

question not but Burke would have told the House that his Majesty was not hurl'd from the throne merely, but that his brain was broken never to be set again. This would have been a new figure in rhetoric. . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"most devoted Serv^t^,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 17th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . At York the Fitzwilliamites have been sadly overreached. The opposite party feasted early, & even before dinner sent a requisition to the Lord Mayor to call a hall for an address. This he could not refuse. All, therefore, that his party could do was to endeavour to make the address come from themselves. But this their opponents foresaw, & by a manœuvre made it their own, & then by greatly outvoting them obtained that it should be signed only by the Chairman, by w^ch^ means they were prevented from giving all the expression of loyalty in their power, their signature. The Dean was outrageous, & got heartily hissed.

"I cannot say I have any great curiosity to see St. Paul's lighted, because there is no point of view from w^ch^ it can be well seen but the centre of the upper end of Ludgate Street, a position w^ch^ must necessarily be the lot of the lowest of the mob.

"Does your Lordship think it possible that Burke can ever shew his face again? I find Charles Fox has. But that *hurling from the throne* is surely what can never be got over. My best respects attend her Ladyship. . . . .

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Yours most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, April 18th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I do not feel inclined to finish what I have sketched; I like not by any means this parade to St. Paul's; and have dissagreable presentiments concerning it. Should it end, however, without any untoward accident, you will oblige me greatly by sending me early intelligence concerning it. . . . .

"I am, my dear Lord,

"Yours most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, May 1st*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Tho' May-day be usher'd in with a cold easterly wind, your last letter, w^ch^ I sit down to answer, gives me sufficient spirits for the business, for indeed it has reliev'd me from terrible apprehensions, w^ch^ did not arise merely from fear of the function too much affecting the King, but also from collateral, and, as I thought,

certain consequences to the spectators, in w^ch^, too, my other fear was combined, as I am clear that had a single life been lost among the crowd, that life would have been imputed by the worthless leaders of Opposition to his Majesty. God be thanked it is safely over.

"You are, I suppose, as much sated with illumination Historiattes as I am, but I must, notwithstanding, be the chronicler of one w^ch^ I think so singularly excellent that I almost wish Lady Harcourt would communicate it to the Queen, as I am sure it would entertain her.

"The town of Sheffield, tho' immediately under the Duke of Norfolk (who is their Lord of the Mannor, & whose Steward wished to blend the rejoicings usual there on the Duke's birthday with those intended for the King's recovery, but very vainly), was by no means behind the rest of the principal towns in Yorkshire on that occasion. But my anecdote relates only to a poor *muffin* woman there, who, on a previous day, went to a signpost painter to order a picture of the King, that she might illuminate it with candles over her shop-door. The painter, knowing her poverty, hesitated to do it. 'Look you,' says she, 'there is five shillings in hand, & whatever more it comes to I'll be sure to pay it with ready money.' The man took it, but told her as she must have a motto it would come to much more. 'Motto,'

says she, 'what do you mean by motto?' 'You must have *God save the King*, or *Long live the King*, written over it in gold letters.' 'No, no,' replys the woman, 'everybody has those kind of words, I'll have something of my own. My motto (as you call it) shall be *Loyalty to the last penny*.' The good woman had accordingly her portrait & her motto for eleven shillings. Would not your Lordship eat a Yorkshire muffin with even a better appetite than you eat them at Harrogate, could you eat one of this woman's baking?

* * * * * *

"I shall fill the rest of my page with my last transcript of the inscription, w^ch^, altho' not quite what I could wish it, is, I think, as well as I can make it, tho' still open to criticism, w^ch^, after consulting those whose critical skill you most depend on, I wish you to give me, & not to give it to the stone-mason till I hear again from you on the subject[j].

"Believe me, my dear Lord, truly yours,
"W. M."

"*Aston, June 10th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I am glad you think the inscription improved. It is not yet quite what I would have it, but I find I cannot mend it, so it

[j] These were the lines which are now inscribed in the grounds at Nuneham.

must do as well as it can. I am clear that nothing but the verses should be put on the face of the pedestal; on the back, perhaps, it might not be amiss to put the date, W. Whitehead, Esq., P.L., died * * aged * *

"I expect the honour of a visit from Lady Holdernesse very soon, she is coming to Alderson's in my neighbourhood, & I believe she brings poor Miss Byron to leave for some time in his family with a *governante*, but whether this be a secret or no I know not, & therefore would not have it mention'd. The wretched father, after having spent his present wife's fortune, w^ch^ I believe was £3,100, is skulking in Town under a feigned name.

"I went yesterday to Thoresby (where a sale commences this day), to see whether there were any pictures worth bidding for, but found nothing of consequence. There were many biddets, & could I have found one authenticated to have been bestrode by her Grace, I would have bought it for your Lordship, & inscribed it, 'In Piam Memoriam defunctæ voluptatis.'

"By not having answer'd your last sooner I have lost, I fear, several anecdotes relative to the late *duello*. My paper, 'Woodfall's Diary,' is good for nothing save when it gives the debates, for w^ch^, indeed, I only take it in. I want much to know whether the Prince at the ball did really behave as some papers say he did?

"Pray be charitable & answer this, tho' it be too dull & too short to deserve an answer, and tho' I can add nothing to it but my best respects to her Ladyship & Mr. Haggitt.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,
"Most truely yours,
"W. MASON.

"The Siddons is to be at Sheffield next week or the week after, & I mean to pay her a morning visit."

"*Aston, June* 18, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My last letter crossed your Lordship's on the road; I am sorry the tripod is too small, I suspected it would, but this comes of impetuosity. Monr. Geredius' rule is certainly a good one, of trying effects by mock objects, tho' he carries it too far; to a practis'd eye a single pole or post will be sufficient. I have thought of two ways of mending matters, one is by planting a clump of roses, buried pots of myrtle, &c., round the pedestal, the other is to place it under the tree itself, with benches on each side, in wch case the 2d line of the inscription must be alter'd, and instead of *near to*, *beneath*.

"I think I told your Lordship in my last that Lady H. is coming here; should she want an agreable companion in a post-shay on her return I may perhaps accompany her, in wch case I shall

endeavour to pay my *devoirs* at Nuneham; but all this is at present unsettled. Respects & compts to Lady Harcourt & Mr. Haggitt.

"Most devotedly yours,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, July 5th*, 1789.

"THE Countess came here, my dear Lord, so late, and (while with Alderson) starved me so much by prohibiting fires, that recollecting what I have suffer'd in the south from the same cause, I renew'd my resolution of never venturing my person again on the other side of the Trent between the months of May & November. Mrs. Siddons also fortified me in this resolution, & I have made her almost an absolute promise of meeting her at Nuneham after my residence, when fires will be established. She & her spouse past two days with me here, I flatter myself not uncomfortably, & I escorted them on Friday last to Matlock, a compliment I would not have paid to any of the blood royal. The weather proved tolerable, & she was so pleasant, so sensible, & so pleas'd with all she saw, that I thought myself amply repaid for my civility.

"As five weeks more will bring me into my state of captivity, to have come southward now would have been absolute hurry, & perhaps too much for me at my advanced age; therefore I

doubt not but that your Lordship will take this as a sufficient excuse. Mr. & Mrs. S. are this day on the road towards Weymouth, whither I suppose her Ladyship & your Lordship will soon fly on the wings of duty, if you are not already fled. For as I do not find from the papers that you appear'd at Oxford in your Dr.'s robes, I begin to suspect that of two travelling evils you might chuse what you would think the least, & rather go ninety one way than six another; the supposition is surely in character. . . . .

"Your Lordship's truely devoted Servt,
"W. MASON."

"*York, September 7th*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have been longer than usual silent, in hope that the anecdotes I might pick up during the last forthnight might produce a letter somewhat more entertaining than my previous short southern jaunt could supply. But I have fail'd in my expectations, for I never heard *one* thing wch the Prince either said or did that was different from anything that one of our Yorkshire squires might not have done or said, except dancing one fine *minuet*, & most curiously answering one of the most curious addresses that a most impolitic Earl could possibly have contriv'd to have put into the mouths of his furgowned puppets. But as you have seen his *minuet*, & read his answer, I need say no more on that subject. As to what was done at Wentworth House, that will also be transcribed from our county papers into the London ones for your admiration ere this reaches you. I could not, however, help being pleas'd with finding that acct & that of your Lordship's spinning-feast in the *same paper*, and I should hope the contrast would strike every reader, whose moral feelings were not quite oblitterated, in the same manner in wch it struck me. But there are men your Lordship knows who think Mr. Pitt unfit to be Prime Minister, because his leisure hours are not spent amid a crew of swearers, drunkards, & gamblers, & one of these who has deliver'd a similar opinion in the highest assembly of the nation, to him & his adherents the favorable side of the contrast will appear different from that in wch I saw it. But this I presume will give you little chagrin.

"The Duke who takes his name from this sage city, had the sagacity to travell 1,100 miles in less time & with less sleep (as one of his admirers told me) than ever any king's messenger did. The consequence was, that on the day of his arrival he was oblig'd to take to his bed, & to put himself under the care of our Scotch doctor, who sweated him plentifully, after wch his Royal H. prescribed bark in large dozes to himself. The result was that he was able the following Monday to set out

for Town, but as the papers say he did not arrive there till the Thursday, I presume his illness obliged him to cease his royal emulation of a king's messenger, & content himself with travelling slower than a stage-coachman. The Prince, I hear, in his return was overturned between Stilton & Rugden by a loaded cart, & two of his attendants, who rode on the fore-box *a la Françoise*, much hurt.

"I will not quit these royal themes till I answer a question w^ch^ I am sure you would ask were I at Nuneham. Did the Prince see the cathedral? He walk'd thro' the nave with his suite, thro' the west door, peep'd into the quire, & paid 5 guineas to the verger, w^ch^, on the most accurate calculation, was more than a guinea p^r^ minute. He sent no previous notice, so I thought myself absolv'd from even seeing him, w^ch^ I had intended to have done if he had had a *levèe*. . . . .

"Most devotedly yours,

"W. MASON."

"*York, October* 31*st*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . The papers have repeatedly talked to us (for papers talk just like my friends the Morrits, incessantly) about Post Masters General, & Masterships of the Horse, annexing your Lordship's name to both these places of honour & profit; for my own part, I am for giving

your Lordship the former of these, merely because I know you can write a good letter, & because you cannot ride a good horse. But I have lived long enough in the world to believe that if either of these places fall to your lot it will most probably be the latter, & this for the above reason. However, as *self* always puts in an internal word on such occasions, I flatter myself that if a Master of the Horse (tho' God knows no greater as master of horsemanship than myself) should refuse next summer to visit me at Aston, & thereby repay the numberless prior visits, besides the present one w^ch^ I am about to pay him, I shall have a right to give him the *retorte valliante.*

"A blessing upon all turnpike meetings say I, for a turnpike meeting to be held at Ferrybridge next week gives me a legitimate reason for quitting York six days sooner than I should have done. Nay, it goes further, it gives me, as I hope, a cause for *shirking*, or (to use a more fashionable phrase) *cutting* my Lady Jersey, who threaten'd me one of her six o'clock dinners here, in her way from Castle Howard home. However, I have written to her Lord in the manner of Van Butehill, as hoping not to be *dissagreably circumstanced.* Yet, after all, if he should bring his *alive* wife here next Monday, or Tuesday, or Wednesday, I should much rather entertain Van Butehill's *dead* one, for those three days are devoted by M^rs^. Thorpe to

packing, & scouring the house up for my successor & his Scotch lady.

"*Me Voila donc* on my wheels on Thursday, turning my face directly south, & not pausing a moment at Aston, but taking the direct road to Curzon-street, except, peradventure, making a kind of short curteseing visit to my old *Alma Mater* at Cambridge. Then after seeing poor Sr. Joshua & pleading for my præmium at the Society of Arts for the discovery of yeast, I betake myself to Nuneham, Mrs. Siddons, & what not. These are most pleasant ideas at my fire-side, when it snows out of doors like fury; but I say to myself, 'so warm, dry, & comfortable a climate as Nuneham can have none of these *disagremens* about it; the overflown meadows there will have such a lake-like appearance as to bring Keswick to my mind's eye, & I can by the powers of imagination easily raise Sr. Stonhouse's mansion[k] into a Skiddaw, & Abingdon steeple into the eagle's nest at Borrowdale. But what shall I do for a cascade like Lodor? No matter, the lock will suffice, for when a man is out of residence nothing can be wrong. He feels, how old soever, as a breaking-up school-boy.'

"I do not expect an answer to this rapsody till I am safely arrived in Town, of wch I shall give you a line of intelligence, wch perhaps is more

[k] Radley House.

than that friend of freedom, the Duke of Orleans, did to that friend of freedom, the Prince of Wales. If in the meantime your Lordship should have taken refuge in Town from boistrous & rainy weather, as he did from boistrous & terrific fish-women, I shall still know where to find you. . . . .

"I rest, my dear Lord,

"Very devotedly yours,

"W. MASON."

* * * * * *

"*Curzon-street, 16th November*, 1789.

"MY DEAR LORD,—*Me voila actuellment à Londres.* I was relieved from my York captivity six days sooner than I had hoped by being summons'd to a turnpike meeting at Ferrybridge, where our party routed the combined forces of Sr. Walter Vavassour, & carried a point of great public utility. I expect to be rebuked by your Lordship for my presumption in opposing the head of the oldest family in Great Britain, but we live in times when even the House of Bourbon is opposed.

"My present principal business in Town is to obtain not a bishoprick or a deanery, but a præmium from the Society of Arts for a method of making yeast. The business is in a most prosperous train, & I am in hopes of wearing my gold medal pendant to a garter blue ribband at your Lordship's table *à coté* of the divine creature.

"Pray tell me when you expect her, & make my profoundest obeisances acceptable to her Ladyship, &c., &c.

"I am, my dear Lord,

"Most devotedly yours,

"W. MASON."

"*Hartlebury Castle, January 6th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have actually got a fit of the gout, and therefore am too ill at ease to answer your flirts about feasts of reason & flows of soul. However, I must needs say that my present host's flannel stockings & gouty shoes stand me in the stead of either, & fully compensate for all the good breeding I might have experienced elsewhere, where these *commoditès* could not have been supplied so quickly.

* * * * * *

"I should like to know the result of Mr. Kent's journey to Coggs.

"How long I shall stay here my toe must determine. Before it took the lead in my determinations I had written to Lady Vernon, to say I would endeavour to call at Sudbury on my way home, if the family remain'd there. I have not had her answer.

"Happy New Year's respects, compliments, &c.,

be pleased properly & good-breedingly to distribute from your Lordship's

"Faithfully devoted Friend,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, February 9th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I had a long & very entertaining letter from your Lordship transmitted to me from Hartlebury: I mention this because the last letter I writ to you was sent from hence prior to the rec^{t} of it, and as that chiefly related to my wish of hearing good news about M^{rs}. Siddons & M^{r}. Haggitt, I thank you very sincerely for having complied with those wishes. I have nothing, however, to send you in return that can in any sort entertain you, the greatest occurrence that has happen'd being the present of a dog from my village shoemaker; yet the history of this dog's geniture is worthy of being recorded. You must learn, then, that Monceau (Lady I.'^{s} cast-off favorite) had, two or three years ago, an intrigue with an ordinary terrier. One of the females produced was a mongrel terrier, with very little of the greyhound in its composition. In a quarell w^{ch} Monceau had with a stronger dog in the parish in one of his other amours, he dislocated one of his hind legs, w^{ch} was never set, so that he afterwards went lame. In process of time, Monceau fell in love with the aforesaid mongrel,

his daughter, & (from too great exertion probably) lamed the fore-leg on the same side, so that he was reduced to the melancholy condition of walking on two; in short, he was in so deplorable a state, that I permitted that he should have the *coup de grace*. In due time, however, this last incestuous amour produced a litter of whelps, one of wch was so very like the father that the shoemaker preserv'd it for me, and it is so perfect a greyhound that Monceau may truly be said to have stampt an image of himself before he left the world. I accordingly call it *Phœnix*, because it has clearly arisen from its father's ashes. Tho' your Lordship does not like greyhounds, I am surely persuaded you will own this to be a curiosity. So no more at present from, my dear Lord,

"Your Lordship's much obliged
"& affectionately devoted,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 2nd*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have examined my Gazette news in the papers till I am tir'd, expecting to make myself ready with my congratulations, wch, whenever the moment comes for writing them, I fear will not quite please you, tho' I mean them to be perfectly well-bred. But as you have often call'd writers of a certain sort God Almighty's

nobility, so I am apt to think statesmen of a certain sort His regality, on wch account I should be more proud to owe Mr. Pitt an obligation than any monarch in the universe. This opinion of mine you have convinced me in one of your late letters is far from being your Lordship's. If, however, we differ as much as Burke & Sheridan, I beseech you let us not quarrel.

"Alderson is in Town, & means to leave his name at your door. I should be much obliged to my friend Jacob if he could procure me half-a-pint of *Asphaltum*, prepar'd in the manner Sr. Joshua uses it: it is sold somewhere in St. Martin's-lane. If he calls at Sr. Joshua's door his servant will tell him where, and if he sends it to Lady Holdernesse's, Alderson will both pay for it & bring it to Aston.

"I have seen Burke's speech as published by himself, and Lord Stanhope's letter to him. I forgive the said Lord all that he has said against tythes, &c., for the neat way in wch he has introduced the phrase of *Hurling from the throne*, a phrase that I hope will be flung in his teeth over & over again.

"I hope when you favour me with an answer to this you will not fail to mention Mrs. Siddons's state of health. I must leave off at present to answer my brother Jerningham's letter, or rather (as he chuses to call himself in order to keep up his

character of a *beau garçon*) my son's, and I answer him thus immediately to inclose to him a curious letter from Mr. Darnes Barrington, wch I wish your Lordship also to see. Respects to her Ladyship, compts to Mr. Haggitt, *devoir* to all friends.

"Your Lordship's most devotedly,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, March 14th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I reserved my congratulations till the Gazette authorized them, & till I thought all kissing of hands were over; & 'tis well I did, for had I writ instantly, when your Lordship first announc'd the matter, & my letter had reached you at the time of your first function *videlicet*, attending on her Majesty at the Antient Music, it might have interupted the rapture with wch you undoubtedly heard Jubal's lyre & Miriam's tuneful voice,—a song wch, tho' Lady Harcourt, I know, can sing by *note*, might be more novel, and consequently more enchanting to your Lordship. And now that I sit down to write my congratulations, I am in some doubt whether, as an honest Yorkshireman, I can send them with a safe conscience; for does not the rich blood of the House of Falconbridge fertilize & dignify my native country, blood so rich that it is sometimes obliged to lower & impoverish itself with a mixture of Cheltenham water. I own fairly to

your Lordship, that had I been our Gracious Queen Charlotte, & had weighed that noble Peer's pretensions, my partiality to you would not have gone quite so far as her's has done. No, I would first have commanded you & your antagonist to have appear'd before me at the Ring in Hyde Park, each properly accouter'd as true knights, and there mounted on your steeds, you should thrice have circled the Corso before I determined my choice. Nor do I think that your Lordship would have come off ill from this tryal of horsemanship, for Earl Falconberg, I trust, would have bestrode the most impetuous of all his hunters on this great occasion, & consequently hazarded a tumble; while your Lordship, soberly and gently ambling upon one of your little Isle of Sky ponies, would have kept your saddle and come off victorious. One cannot precisely say this would have been the event, but for my part I am clear that the odds would have been on your side, & that the knowing ones would have been taken in. Except this omission of etiquette in her Majesty, I applaud her choice, & heartily congratulate *Le Maitre de Cheval* whom she has chosen.

"I fancy the Duke of Grafton has had the prudence to withhold his motion, as I see nothing of it in the papers; these are not times either to alter Liturgies or give Presbyterians power. I look no farther for quiet times than to the conclusion

of the present reign, & for myself (exclusively of my country) I trust that I look far enough. I wish, however, that *his* Majesty was prohibited by Act of Parliament from riding any other horse than such as *her* Majesty's Master of the Horse should previously try and approve, then, perhaps, one might hope for an end of stag-hunting. . . . .

"My dear Lord,

"Yours most cordially,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, April 8th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . If I ever aspire to be a well-bred man, the first lesson I shall teach myself will be to appear the most pleas'd when I am the most displeased, and let me tell your Lordship in your ear that as well-bred a man as you think yourself, you have not as yet attained that summit of good breeding. But a Court may mend you, & therefore I will not lecture you more at present on that subject.

"Did your Lordship attend, I ought in good breeding rather to say *assist*, at the laying the first stone of the Opera House? How came my Lord of Buckinghamshire to have that honour? I wonder the Antient Music Lords & the Modern Music Lords did not quarrel about it.

"Your acc[t] of Madame Sheridan's fête moved my indignation vehemently, & still more the liquidation of the debt, surely surely the good people of England will not long bear to be thus insulted. Pray how did my son Jerningham support the character of Mr. Bruce[1]? I have no idea of his success in such matters, tho' you have given me prior proofs of it. You see I am reduc'd to turn my letter into a sort of catechism, in w[ch] I ask questions that your Lordship may give answers. I had better give over, for you can tell me more without my asking than I can gain by asking; so with respects and compliments, &c., I will conclude.

"Your Lordship's devoted,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, June 2nd*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Never did any grand *ecuyer* make so lame an excuse as you have done for not honouring me with a visit. I will not, however, say that I am dissapointed, because I never believed you would take the journey. If, however, in the dreary month of November I should plead the age of sixty-five, or perhaps another visit from my late new visitor, the gout, I trust it will be as good a plea for not coming to Nuneham as the want of just such a sort of vehicle as I might like

[1] Mr. Jerningham, the poet, had assumed the character of Mr. Bruce, the famous traveller, of very dubious veracity. He possessed the extraordinary talent of supporting any character thus assumed, so as to remain for many hours at a time undiscovered by his most intimate friends, whom he was in the habit of seeing daily.

best to travel in. Poor Tom Wharton has read me a lesson of mortality, and precisely of that sort wch they who have been much in the habit of living with persons of quality must have learned chiefly to attend to. It has been my constant observation that tho' these can feel sorry for the death of a friend, they never feel for *themselves* but on the death of a personage of their own age and rank; & this in proportion as their respective ranks are equalized in the Peerage books. I have seen mortalitys of this kind operate even hysterically. This being the case, why should not I, as a poet, feel for Tom Wharton just as I guess all old dukes are now feeling for the good Duke of Montagu. Yet, disregardless of my feelings, the wits in York (or rather, as I suspect, that greatest of Scotch wits, Dr. Hunter) have told the opposition wits who support the 'York Herald,' that I, the Precentor of York, am the competitor with Mr. Kemble, of Drury Lane Theatre, for the vacant Laurel.

"Pray, with my kindest compliments, give Mrs. Siddons this piece of news, and assure her I am far from being mortified at being placed in competition with her brother, not only because he is her brother, but because I believe him an honest man. Had the 'York Herald' proclaim'd me competitor with the principal patentee of that theatre, I should then have been mortified exceedingly.

Yet I have my doubts when you read her the above sentence, if she will feel it as she ought; for she, like the generality of the world, thinks of genius as they should think solely of Christian charity, that it covers a multitude of sins.

"I am a little curious to know whether the defunct Laureat's Ode will be performed. It certainly must have been written and given to the composer some weeks before his death. There was a mystery, too, concerning the omission of the last New Year's Ode wch I never heard explained, but I am much more curious to know whether the place is to be continued; were I in such a situation that a sentiment of mine could vibrate on my Sovereign's ear, I should make it vibrate strongly for its dissolution. 'Tis a wretched *Gothic* Institution,—pardon, my good Lord, the epithet, Gothic Architecture is out of the question; a single turret in Windsor Castle, or pinnacle on St. George's Chappel is not affected by it, and if you were to be the Governor,—aye, there's the rub,—why not have waited for that? but perhaps you may arrive at that supreme height of all your wishes; for my part, could I forward this promotion, I would engage myself to do the work of the Laureat *gratis*, and I would write my Odes in the true Cibberian form, that they might be married to immortal Handelian music. Neither Whitehead nor Wharton knew how to write as they

should on such occasions, and I appeal to all the gentlemen of the Royal Chappel to corroberate my sentiment.

"Whether this will find your Lordship in Westminster Abbey, or dressing for the birthday, I am uncertain. However, it may be pocketted for the perusal of a leisure hour when these pleasurable avocations are finished. Poor Pacciarotti! Dixon has told me how he is flouted, but he is right served. I never knew a nightingale in my life that chose to sing at the top of an oak or an elm at the time when it was filled with crow nests. As your Lordship never visits the country in the vernal season, I fear you will not have an adequate idea of my allusion, nor Lady Harcourt neither, to whom I present my best respects.

"Believe me, my dear Lord,

"Yours very devotedly,

"W. MASON.

"Compliments to Mr. Haggitt."

"*York, October 17th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The honour of Lady Harcourt's letter, wch I recd this morning, shall have its effect, & rouse me to pay my epistolary debts, & first the long one wch I owe to your Lordship; but I must plead in my own apology, that if you could have any conception of the dullest of all lives wch I lead here, you would not wonder to

find me the dispirited thing I am, and how great an effort it requires to write anything from hence that can be likely to amuse any of my correspondents. Besides this, I feel old age coming upon me with hasty strides, & tho' it has not (as I think) so far depressed my imagination but that I can imitate what I formerly *was*, & seem to be as capricious & whimsical as ever (two characteristical qualities wch, at first, I flatter myself put me into your Lordship's good graces), yet it is now mere imitation, & requires, as I said before, an effort too strong for the general run of my spirits.

"This, therefore, is the real cause of my silence, not only to you, but to all my other good friends, when I have not any immediate topic, either of business or necessary information to write about. Public matters also, both at home & in France, afford no object either of speculation or conjecture to eke out a letter. One cannot here in the country even put quæres about war and peace, or ask how it is likely the revolution in France will end, to our friends in the great world; for the laudable secrecy of the Minister, & the Camælion changes in the National Assembly, assure one that nobody is able to give more than a conjectural answer on either of these topics; I have therefore ventured very lately to buy some stock, even without consulting Stonhewer, who was always my great director in such important matters.

"I have seen your Lordship's name so frequently among the *Levée* Earls that I take for granted you have not been very stationary at Nuneham during the recess, and I am glad of it, because, peradventure, you may have learned by practise that posting backwards & forwards is a more bearable calamity than you have hitherto thought it; not that I expect on a future year to benefit by it, & have the honour of a visit from you at Aston, because I imagine tho' you may have eat, you have never slept at an inn, and the purgatory of that, I take for granted, will ever deter you from taking so long a journey. . . . .

"Your Lordship's
"truely devoted,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Feb. 28th*, 1791.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am resolv'd that a third month shall not end before I beg pardon for my unusually long silence, a silence w^ch^ first had its origin from not well knowing how to answer the greatest part of your last letter, w^ch^ you so kindly wrote to set my heart at ease about your suppos'd illness, concerning w^ch^ I had sent more, I hope, than *obliging enquirys*. But when I found it was all about a supposed mad dog, I knew not how to treat the subject with proper gravity, because, as you know, I am a sort of *esprit fort* with respect

to canine madness. I was afraid I might say something disrespectful to D^r^. James, of whose memory I believe your Lordship has as much reverence as Edmund Burke, I presume, has of Ignatius Loyala's. I thought it best, therefore, to let two or three moons come to their changes before I congratulate you on this matter, w^ch^ I now do, & with it beg leave to conclude my apology.

"In return for my congratulations I expect, at your Lordship's full leisure, to be congratulated on my part for having had the good fortune not to visit the Metropolis this winter, w^ch^, if I had done, I should have found it, perhaps, somewhat difficult to avoid being the improver of Frogmore. I find myself much more agreably employ'd at my own parsonage, in burlesquing your Lordship's flower-garden at Nuneham, & making a thing unique in its kind, w^ch^, when finished, I shall call a *Jardin Potager Ornè*. But a wretched bed of asparagus, & an early crop of beans & peas, prevent me from compleating my plan till the next autumn. Our old friend Horace, as M^rs^. Harcourt's father[m] used to call him, says

'Omne tulit Punctum qui miscuit *utile Dulci*,'

& I hope to do this as well as Jean Jaques Julie, if my brick walls will suffer me.

[m] Dr. Danby.

"I grow every day a greater adept in that species of philosophy w^ch best becomes a toothless old man. I always resolv'd that so soon as I had any decided symptom of old age more than that of mere gray hairs, I would wean myself from the world, & depend on self alone for all my amusements & gratifications. God be thanked that it is not a defect of eyes or of ears, but of teeth only that I suffer, & this, tho' it admonishes me to avoid the tables of the great & the *bon ton*, & consequently to keep out of London, does not make me quarrel with my existence, or depress my spirits, and I now find myself arrived at such a pitch of solitary perfection, that I am regardless about even the squabbles of the two Opera Houses; and, as to political & literary matters, I am so careless that I have not redde either a syllable of Burke's book (save only his insanity about the Q. of F.) nor of any of his numerous answerers; nay, I almost think I could avoid opening that of Sir Brooke Boothby if it was laid on my table.

"The acc^t w^ch you gave me of M^rs. Siddons' having engaged to act twice a-week made me resolve not to make any enquirys after her, knowing that the bad account I should certainly have of her would come but too soon to the public prints. I find, however, she has acted once, & but once, & if she did this merely to refute the almost general rumour that her disease was in the brain, I can

forgive her. Don't, however, tell me anything about her, for it will break in upon my philosophical system, w^ch teaches me that whatever or whosoever I like best I should enquire after the least.

"Lay me at the feet of her Ladyship, & pray tell Miss Fauquier that the reason I do not write to her is, lest she should answer me, & tell me how divinely Pacciarotti fills the dome of the Pantheon. I laid the said Signor asside when I was last in Town, for preferring Lady Mary Duncombe's company to that of any. My dear Lord,

"Your Lordship's
"*Devouvé*,
"W. MASON.

"I have been as long in debt to Stonhewer as your Lordship, & this upon system; I cannot help asking, tho' it breaks in upon the said system, whether he or Lord Cardigan is most in the good graces of that light gossimer the Theodore?"

"*York, August 30th*, 1791.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am much surprised that your Lordship should imagine that I meant my last as a farewell letter. You may remember that it contained a request to you for a congratulatory epistle, w^ch it certainly would not have done had I wished to drop a correspondence w^ch has for many years been so very honourable & entertaining to myself. It is true that I told you I was

weaning myself from Town & the polite circles of w^ch^ it was composed, & this on account of certain symptoms of old age, w^ch^ I thought, & still think, I ought to do, nay, w^ch^ I think I have now compleatly atchieved. During this interval of philosophical self-regimen, it was necessary I should wish not to be too much amused even by epistolary correspondence, on w^ch^ occasion I forbore to give my friends immediate answers to such letters as contain'd no immediate business, as Stonhewer, Palgrave, &c., &c., can testify, & who will perhaps mix reproof of me with their testimonial; but now I have habituated myself so much to solitude and to such a small number of my equals, who are no better bred than myself, that I flatter myself I shall pass the remainder of my life, tho' divested of any very pleasurable society, with complacency, peace, & self-satisfaction. As a proof that this change in my mode of living is attended with no chagrin, or dislike of those amusements w^ch^ I can gratify in solitude itself, I inclose you a trifle of w^ch^ I have printed a very few copies, & w^ch^ I wish your Lordship to consider as a manuscript. I flatter myself that when you read it (tho', perhaps, you may think the notes old-fashionedly pedantic) you will think the verses inserted in the text no unhappy imitation of Prior's easy manner.

"I am glad to find that M^r^. Haggitt has for the

vehicle of his promotion so well-bred a bishop as my Lord of Durham, yet I wish that so ill-bred a minister, as it seems M^r^. Pitt is, had more favour in your Lordship's eyes than he seems at present to have from your account of him. Believe me, my good Lord, the salvation of this country, under heaven, rests upon his single shoulders, or rather head-piece; if, therefore, he chuses to relax himself with vulgar private parties, & mere college wit, I pray you to forgive him. Earl Fitz-William & Charles Fox, tho' last week drawn by men into this exulting city, will, I fear me, make small amends for his loss, if your regal friend should chuse to discard him for want of due *politesse*. But it seems Burke is now fawning himself into his favour. I trembled when I read in the papers that they lately chatted together on the promenade at Windsor so very pleasantly, and I think with reason, for the blasphemer who said the Almighty had hurl'd him from his throne might, perhaps, have hurl'd him down the terrace. I wish Frogmore was finished, that when his Majesty chuses such a companion he might walk with more safety. Having mention'd this I call again for your congratulations, w^ch^ your last favour by no means convey'd.

"The want of a post-chaise, & the attendance at the abby, are two such excellent & irrefragable reasons for your Lordship's not honouring me

with a visit these last two years, that I doubt not but you will find one still more cogent & convincing for not doing it the next. Nothing, I am convinced, but the pleasure of seeing Mr. Haggitt installed at Durham will prompt you to make Aston your half-way house, wch that it may soon be (as we say here at the end of a sermon) the bishop in his infinite benignity grant.

"At your Lordship's next visit at *Rosehill*[n] (I am afraid a certain person will pull caps with her for giving her mansion so *bucolique* a name) pray make my respects to Mrs. Siddons. I saw her brother play Hamlet here in a manner that pleased me highly, but as he did not make me a visit, and as, on acct of my present system, I could not wait upon him, I was prevented from telling him so personally. I hope Lady Harcourt will look upon this as a joint answer both to hers & your Lordship's kind letter, & that I am mutually your Lordship's & her Ladyship's

"Truely devoted Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*York, November 20th*, 1791.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You will have heard from Harrowgate that I paid my *devoirs* to my theatrical empress in due time, & returned to my captivity the same evening. To enable me to do this I found it necessary to attend early prayers at seven in the morning, & to breakfast at Green-Hamerton, where, as I remember, your Lordship very unnecessarily stopt to dine, & was *exudé* with your bad entertainment.

"I never saw Mrs. S. look better, & as her complaint is now deemed the worms, I have great hopes that Harrowgate waters may remove it, tho' they fail'd to cure the poison convey'd into your Lordship's forehead by the lining of a French *Chapeau, ou Bonnet de Voyage.*

* * * * * *

"I have determin'd to sustain another residence that I may be compleatly at liberty the next summer. I could not help smiling at your declaration that no symptoms of age should determine you 'to shut yourself up in the country,' you, whose *system* thro' youth has been to do so every summer, & most part of the winter (for I am not fashionable enough to determine the commencement of winter at the opening of a new sessions). But admit you have departed from your system, may not I be permitted to take it up, who have so often had the honour to use your cast snuff-boxes? If your Lordship confines your excursions to the environs of Nuneham, or, at the furthest, to Windsor, are not the three Ridings of this gigantic county space

[n] During Dr. Haggitt's absence at his golden stall in Durham Mrs. Siddons rented the parsonage at Nuneham, and passed part of several summers there: the name of Rose-hill was of her giving, but was not retained after she quitted it.

enough for a sexagenarian like myself to range in? But my system (if you will have it so) restrains me only from visiting London, when it is call'd London; when it goes into the country I have no objection to visit its abandoned streets, because it is civil enough to me to leave its arts behind it.

"With respect to the political paragraph in your last favour, I have only to reply in the words of either Bob or Buck at Hanover: 'Some say their Lord's Prayer & some their Creed—for my part I say nothing.' A minister, if he has really done the two things he has done, with no better motives than your Lordship assigns, can never be a *truely great minister*.

"Wherever Stonhewer is, be it north, be it south, some nodder is sure to start up & detain him. He has put off calling upon me in his return from Durham so long that I suppose his visit will be, according to the Aristotelic unity of time, confin'd to the exact duration of twenty-four hours.

* * * * * *

"Poor Mrs. Ann Morritt, who is every day a more distressing object, has yet had strength enough to recover from a violent attack of colic, fever, &c., & may, from present appearance, exist, with all her mental faculties perfect, months if not years longer; she & the sisters (who merit all that can be said for their affectionate attendance

on her) return their best respects to her Ladyship & yourself, to wch I join my own.

* * * * * *

"Believe me, my dear Lord, that it is a principal part of *my system* to be

"Very cordially yours,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Feb. 20th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I am very glad to find that Mr. Haggitt's complaint, wch you deemed incurable, was so soon cured, & therefore I am not without hopes that your Lordship & himself will take Aston on your way to Durham when you deliver him up to his new patron. I remember, when first I went from Cambridge into Lord Holdernesse's family, Gray, who went up to Town in the same stage-coach, told people in London 'that he was come up to put Mason an apprentice to a Secretary of State.' I hope Mr. Haggitt's apprenticeship to a bishop will teach him as little ecclesiastical craft as I learned of political; and yet if he has not more of both than I ever gained, he will be no great gainer on the upshot. I am rejoiced to find that Mrs. Siddons is able again to appear upon the stage, but have enough of the courtier left in me, when writing to your Lordship, to impute anything of her better health to Harrow-

gate water. All Spas whatever, w^ch^ cannot cure a sore forehead excoriated by the verdigris poison of a French *Chapeau de Voyage*, I hold to be mere chips in porridge.

"I glory in my wine-merchant's patriotic scorn of titles and supporters; I try'd all I could, when Palgrave was with me at York, to make him send his chaise to the coach painters to blot out his mantle (w^ch^ we all know he had never any right to encircle his quartering withal), but to no purpose, and quoted his Lordship's example (I beg his pardon for calling him so) in vain. When he comes to Town pray turn him over to the Margravine, & let her Serene Highness make him her Chaplain. That your Lordship has taken to painting again gives me great satisfaction; '*to be employ'd is to be happy*,' said Gray, and if he had never said anything else either in prose or even in verse, he would have deserved the esteem of all posterity. My present happiness arises only from employing others, & I have, during the last ten months, instructed a poor disciple (only just now turned of thirteen) in my system of four colours, so that when he was at York with me he copied a landscape of Poussin's most wonderfully, and I have no doubt but in a very little time he will excell Charles in ev'ry species of copying; how much his genius will go farther I cannot yet say, but he has so much docility, patience, & perseverance, that I

hope great things from him when his faculties are more divelloped . . . .

"My dear Lord,

"Yours very devotedly & sincerely,

"W. MASON.

"I was requested some time ago to ask your Lordship how Oxford & its Shire were affected towards a petition against the Slave Trade, but as I previously knew what Christ Church and its leaders thought on that subject I forbore to put the question. For myself, I have done both at York & in this neighbourhood what conscience dictated to do. But the subject is now changed from a matter of just & humane feeling to a matter of false & political reasoning, so I have little hope of success, however numerous the petitions may prove. . . . ."

"*Aston, July 12th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR LORD . . . .—You will not, I fancy, be satisfied with a letter w^eh^ has hitherto said nothing, unless I add to it either some news or some egotisms. Of the former I can give you nothing from so sequester'd a station, and of the latter nothing worth reading, except that tho' I have relinquished the world it does not seem inclined to have relinquished me. M^r^. Repton[o], the great

[o] Mr. Mason, upon his becoming acquainted with Mr. Repton and his works, altered his opinion with respect to the abilities of that artist, to which he afterwards did ample justice.

landscape gardiner, who has the Duke of Portland & Earl Fitzwilliam in his clutches, and who I should think

'Need no rod but Repton *without* rule,'

writes me word that he & I ought to be acquainted, and gives this best of all reasons for it, 'that both Miss Steward and Mr. Hayley say we ought.' Mr. Penn, who is putting up a cenotaph at Stoke to the memory of Mr. Gray, writes to consult me about it, & he, too, is in the hands of Mr. Repton ; he sends me, too, a tragedy of his own, formed on the Greek model, with chorusses, &c., &c. Mr. Malons also, as executor to poor Sr. Joshua, is become my correspondent; he, like your Lordship & some other great antiquarys, opines that my legacy is spurious. Such a host of new correspondents, you will easily believe, keep me rather in hot water. However, I fight them off as well as I can, but with so much civility, not to say *politesse*, that I verily believe were I to come again into the world, it would find me, from this epistolary practice, almost as urbane & as little like a plain country parson as when I frequented operas and sup't with old Lord Delawarr and my Lady Ciss. Bless my heart! while I am writing this I forget that I have lost all my teeth. Sup now with Lady Ciss! no! no! such happiness must never again be my lot. But perhaps Lady Ciss has by this time lost

all her teeth, & if so, we might mumble together upon a par; true, but will she take her false teeth out on the occasion? must not I get a new mouthpiece by way of qualification? Better rest contented as I am, amongst my honest parishioners, who think me the more venerable for these & other defects.

"I had the pleasure to read in the last 'Gentleman's Magazine' a new life of myself, drawn up with much conciseness, & not, as I suppose, at all in Mr. Boswell's manner. It charges me with no faults save too great a tendency to politics, wch for the future I am resolved to avoid; and it approves of my present mode of life, wch, therefore, I am resolv'd to continue. Admire, my Lord, my docility, and believe me to be (with my best respects to Lady Harcourt, & compliments to Mr. Haggitt)

"Your Lordship's
"very sincere Friend
"& obliged Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, October 3rd*, 1792.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Such a summer surely never was before. Our roads are almost impassible, as *my* uncle, Admiral Phil, experienced this morning, who did me the honour to breakfast here in his way to Town from visiting his nephew at

Swinton, & the new Earl of Effingham in my neighbourhood. He laments much that his nephew is a Demagogue, & hardly thinks that his niece, when she comes from Brussels, will convert him; but I, who am neither a Demagogue nor an Aristocrat, & who look no further for the existence of this country as a nation (better worth being call'd so than France) than the limits of the present reign (God send its limits may be at least commensurate with my life & your Lordship's), am not very solicitous about such matters. I wish, however, that the good General & his helpmate were safely returned, & this the Admiral thinks they are. Let me, however, boast that not to be a demagogue in my present situation is in me no small degree of merit, considering that by the aid of an aristocrat, in the person of Lord Fitzwilliam, the Scotch lunatic doctor at York has compleatly triumph'd over me, & frustrated all my exertions for the Yorkshire poor in that sad predicament. But to give your Lordship a detail of this business would be a *bore*, therefore I only announce the fact. . . . .

"My dear Lord,
"Your most sincerely attached
"Servant,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Nov. 24th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . Your Lordship knows my aversion to looking at maps, but from the information of my curate, who, at my request, has taken that dissagreable office upon himself, it seems as if my way from Paddington lay thro' Ailsbury. If so, I shall certainly pay my *devoirs* to your sister[p], and get her spouse, S[r]. William, to settle my political conscience. I hate the French, I detest the Germans, therefore if I could get S[r]. William to convince me that all the carnage they have made of late was on account of the Jews it would greatly content me, for that neither Demagogues nor Harry Scrotts (as my neighbours the Sheffield cutlers call the latter) will ultimately be gainers by it I am perfectly convinc'd.

"I hope M[rs]. Siddons will have left Nuneham before I arrive, for I am out of all charity with her for not having heard or seen anything of her when she was within ten miles of me.

"My best *devoirs* attend all the family, *au revoir*.

"Your Lordship's
"*devouè*,
"W. MASON."

"*Aston, Aug. 10th*, 1793.

"I NEVER, my dear Lord, in my correspondence, either with Peer or Plebeian, observed any other

[p] Lady Elizabeth Lee, at Hartwell.

etiquette than that of writing when I had something to write about, and it has so happen'd that since I left Town I have had nothing to write about to anybody, except now & then a trifling commission, w^ch^ *bienseance* prevented me from troubling your Lordship with. Besides this, I had heard that much of your time in this interval was taken up in your attentions at Windsor, &, therefore, knowing how much the Gothicisms of that superb Castle, to say nothing of its royal inmates, had power to entertain you, I thought that a letter from me, such as in my rustication I was able to write from my straw hut, where I have spent most of my hours in the late fine weather, would add little to your amusement. I was led to think also from the newspaper, that after the birthday your French cousins had become your visitants at Nuneham.

* * * * * *

"Now that Valenciennes is fallen to the conquering arms of our Commander-in-chief, I am in hopes the British battalions will be in less danger than I fear they have been in the former part of the campaign, & I hope that your excellent brother's cool courage & military experience may allay the rash ardor, & make amends for the no experience of ——. But I check myself for fear of talking treason, a mode of talking w^ch^ is now more than ever in vogue among my neighbours at

Sheffield, & whose proceedings by meetings, exercizings, seditions, hand-bills, &c., &c., are in my opinion very alarming. Your Lordship may depend upon it, that what I said when I was with you on the topic of the proclamation & addresses is very true, 'the snake is only scotched, not killed.' If the war continues (& yet how can it cease?) the winter will not pass over without some insurrection. I hope, however, it will not be so formidable as to do more than frighten your new Oxford Chancellor & my neighbouring Earl into a little political prudence, & make them repent of their profligacy in pensioning Charles Fox.

"I am glad to hear that your Lordship continues to amuse yourself with painting, for my part I have laid it aside almost entirely, I find my hand too unsteady to do anything but sketch. . . . .

"Your very devoted

"& affectionate Servant,

"W. MASON."

"*Aston, April 17th*, 1794.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . . I begin to think myself too near to Sheffield, where sedition seems to be at a greater height than ever, & where the principal inhabitants & the Justices of the Peace are too much intimidated to take any active step to quell it. There is a man who calls himself York, tho' I believe his real name is Redhead, who

harangues thousands of the Sheffield journeymen cutlers in a field adjoining the town; distributes pamphlets of the most inflammatory kind; puts up hand-bills to dissuade all young men from enlisting into the army, &c., &c.; it is said that on Monday next they mean to meet again & publicly plant the tree of liberty. The soldiery quartered there are at present but few, tho' I hear more are sent for, yet, unless authorised by the civil magistrate, they can do nothing. In short, I own myself somewhat frighten'd, though not enough so to run like your *vous-dissant* French cousin[q], & go elsewhere to plague other people. If I have by the above expression been ungrammatical, I glory in having broken their Priscian's head upon this occasion, with its nasal twang.

"Pardon me, my good Lord, if I can as little assent to your being an Antigallican as to your being a Hottentot. 'Tis time you paint the real character of that coxcomb nation with the hand of a master; yet till I see your Lordship lay aside every silly fashion that you have imbibed from them, I cannot absolutely give you credit; that you may become a thorough proselyte, a complete John, like myself, I wish, & even pray, heartily; in the meantime, I sincerely, & from my heart, pity

[q] The Duc de Harcourt, whom Lord Harcourt entertained, and subsequently pensioned, during his exile from France under the republic.

you that you are condemned, without any apparent prospect of speedy respite, to endure such society.

"At present, however, I hope you enjoy what you have seldom had an opportunity of enjoying, a Nuneham spring. . . . .

"Your Lordship's most cordially,

"W. MASON.

"Let me beg your Lordship to wrap up your next letter w^{ch} you honour me with in a decent English parallelogram mode, & not in that awkard French square, w^{ch}, however French, is the very way w^{ch} English tradesmen have follow'd time immemorial."

MEMOIR OF
WILLIAM WHITEHEAD.

Memoir of William Whitehead.

WILLIAM WHITEHEAD was born at Cambridge, in 1715; he was the second son of a baker, who sent him to a small school in Cambridge, and died whilst his son was still a child. Lord Montford took compassion upon the destitute condition in which his family was left, and gave young Whitehead a nomination to Winchester School.

Dr. Balguy gives the following account of him during his school-days :—

"He was always of a delicate turn, and, though obliged to go to the hills with other boys, spent his time there in reading either plays or poetry; he was also particularly fond of the *Atlantis*, and all other books of private history or character. He very early exhibited his taste for poetry; for while other boys were contented with shewing up twelve or fourteen lines he would fill half a sheet, but always with English verse. This Dr. Burton, the master, at first discouraged; but after some time he was so much charmed that he spoke of

them with rapture. When he was sixteen he wrote a whole comedy. In the winter of the year 1732 he is said to have acted a female part in the 'Andria,' under Dr. Burton's direction. Of this there are some doubts, but it is certain that he acted Marcia, in the tragedy of Cato, with much applause. In the year 1733 the Earl of Peterborough, having Mr. Pope at his house near Southampton, carried him to Winchester to shew him the college, school, &c. The Earl gave ten guineas to be disposed of in prizes amongst the boys, and Mr. Pope set them a subject to write upon, viz. *Peterborough.* Prizes of a guinea each were given to six of the boys, of whom Whitehead was one. The remaining sum was laid out for other boys in subscriptions to Piece's Horace, then about to be published. He never excelled in writing epigrams, nor did he make any considerable figure in Latin verse, though he understood the classics very well, and had a good memory. He was, however, employed to translate into Latin the first epistle of the 'Essay on Man,' and the translation is still extant in his own hand. Dobson's success in translating Prior's 'Solomon' had put this project into Mr. Pope's head, and he set various persons to work upon it.

"Whitehead's school friendships were usually contracted either with noblemen or gentlemen of large fortune, such as Lord Drumlanrig, Sir Charles

Douglas, Sir Robert Burdett, Mr. Tryon, and Mr. Mundy of Leicestershire. The choice of those persons was imputed by some of his school-fellows to vanity, by others to prudence; but might it not be owing to his delicacy, as this would make him easily disgusted with the coarser manners of ordinary boys? He was school-tutor to Mr. Wollop, afterwards Lord Lymington, son to the late Earl of Portsmouth, and father to the present Earl. He enjoyed, for some little time, a lucrative place in the college, that of preposter of the hall. At the election in September, 1735, he was treated with singular injustice; for, through the force of superior interest, he was placed so low on the roll that it was scarce possible for him to succeed to New College. Being now superannuated, he left Winchester of course, deriving no other advantage from the college than a good education: this, however, he had ingenuity enough to acknowledge with gratitude, in a poem prefixed to the second edition, in Dr. Lowth's 'Life of William of Wickham.'"

After his disappointment in respect to New College he returned to Cambridge, and obtained a scholarship at Clare, of the weekly value of four shillings. During his stay at the University he published several

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minor poems, but his first production of any note was one entitled "The danger of writing in Verse;" this obtained him some repute, but it was followed shortly by the tale of "Atys and Adrastus," which was received with still more favour. The "Essay on Ridicule" was published in 1743, and was reckoned one of his best pieces. At this period of his life his chief object in all his work was to obtain a living for himself, and to avoid as much as possible drawing upon his mother's slender means. He took his degree in 1739, and in 1742 was elected a fellow of his college. The intention which he had of taking orders was interrupted by an offer which was made to him of becoming tutor to the son of the Earl of Jersey. This offer was accepted, and a youth of the name of Stephens was associated with the son of his patron as a companion pupil. Henceforth his chief place of residence was at Lord Jersey's, and he had ample leisure for his literary pursuits.

In 1750 he produced "The Roman Father," a tragedy which was represented at Drury-lane Theatre. It retained its place on the stage with considerable favour for a lengthened period. The "Hymn to the Nymph of the Bristol Spring" may be given as a favourable specimen of our poet's blank verse. In 1751 the "Ode to Friendship" was given to the world: Gray disapproved of the sentiments the poem contained, and said that the stanzas should rather have been called "A Satire on Friendship;" the bad tendency they possessed he declared to be the more exceptionable, because they were so poetically and finely expressed. The objection taken by Gray referred to Whitehead's assertion that the decay of friendship may be mutual, and from causes for which neither party is seriously to blame.

In 1754 the tragedy of "Creusa" was published, and met with a moderate success. At this date Whitehead accepted an engagement to go to Leipsic in charge of the sons of Lord Jersey and Lord Harcourt, with the purpose of attending the lectures of Professor

Mascon in that city. Leaving England in June, they passed the summer at Rheims, to prosecute the study of the French language. Seven months were then spent at Leipsic, but the object of the visit was missed, as the professor had passed into a state of dotage. In the spring, the German courts, Vienna, and Italy, were visited; and the homeward voyage carried the party across the Alps, and through Germany, Switzerland, and Holland. France was inaccessible owing to the war, and the travellers landed at Harwich in September, 1756.

During his absence abroad Whitehead had been presented with the patent offices of Secretary and Registrar of the Bath. He had not been idle during this period, and elegies and odes were inspired by the classical air of the regions he visited. Two years after his return he was appointed Poet Laureat, a place which had been successively offered to Mason and Gray. Whitehead now occupied the position of confidential companion to Lord Jersey, whose son was

no longer in leading-strings; and he was an equally acceptable guest at Nuneham and at Harcourt House.

In 1762 he wrote a comedy called "The School for Lovers," which was acted at Drury-lane, and met with success. "The Charge to the Poets" was his next publication, a work of considerable merit. At this time Churchill selected Whitehead as one of the chief objects of his animosity; his attacks were treated with disdainful silence, but, such was the power of Churchill's sarcasms, that Garrick made it a condition with Whitehead that the "Trip to Scotland," a farce composed by him in 1770, should be produced anonymously. The piece had a great run, and its author was never suspected. In 1774 Whitehead collected and published his plays and poems in one volume. In 1776 "Variety, a tale for Married People," appeared, and it was followed in 1777 by "The Goat's Beard," which was his last publication. In April, 1785, he was attacked by a severe cold, but his usual pursuits were

not interrupted. On the 13th April he was visited by Lord Harcourt, and on the following day finding himself disinclined to eat his dinner, he bade his servant conduct him to his bed, and expired on his way to it. He was in his seventieth year: he was buried in the chapel in South Audley-street. His memoirs were published by Mr. Mason in 1788.

Although Whitehead might, perhaps, be denied a place in the first class of English poets, yet he could justly claim the possession of a pure classical taste, as well as of much genuine humour.

Letters.

"*Hotwell, Bristol, Aug. 1st*, 1757.

"MY LORD,—I have been so much a rambler this summer that it was with some difficulty your Lordship's very obliging letter found me at last. I am at present at Bristol, but shall leave it in a few days to attend the family[a] to Longleat, & afterwards to Middleton, where I shall hope to rest a little from my pleasurable fatigues. The weather has been so extremely fine that one might almost imagine the climates we enjoyed last year had followed us into England.

"Derbyshire & Yorkshire were in perfect beauty. In the latter I saw Studley, where Nature has been bountiful to the last degree. In some parts she is happily corrected by Mr. Aislabie; in others I could wish he had left her to herself: she would never have turned a river out of its natural course to form a round bason & two half-moons of water; nor would she have clipped her elms into Gothic windows. The scenes about Bristol I find as excellent as ever. The mountains, indeed, lose something of their magnitude now I have passed the Alps; nor has the water quite so cerulean a cast as the lake of Geneva; it is, however, very like

[a] Lord Jersey's family.

the golden Tiber, which you know is some comfort to a classical traveller.

"I saw much less of Mason in my travels than I wished to have done, tho' I saw him several times. He left off fires one of the hot days, in pure complaisance, that Mr. & Mrs. Wright & myself might dine with him at Aston. The dramatic part of 'Caractacus' is finished, & he has begun the 'Odes.' He is by much the finest preacher in the whole country, & villages & towns flock to hear him. He has a favorite blacksmith whom he has taught to sing Marcello's Psalms like an angel, &, I suppose, to beat time with his hammer. I send your Lordship this news in return for your history of the Pritchards, to whom you have partially promised much more pleasure than they will ever receive from my plays when they are finished; at present the poor things are in a miserable condition indeed, Middleton is their only chance. I have lately received a letter from Professor Mascon, an extract from which I must send you, as it regards your Lordship as much as Lord Villiers or myself:—

"'I' applaudis fort aux belles maximes que vous avez pris occasion de recommander a my lord Villiers et a my lord Newnham au milieu des ruines de l'ancienne Rome. Je me tiens fort assuré, qu'ils rempliront toujours les esperances que le public peut fonder justement sur de si bons caracteres; on a fait un bel article de ces Poesies dans nôtre Gazette literaire, pour honorer la memoire de ces deux Seigneurs, dans l'université qu'ils ont honoré par leur presence.'

"He likewise desires his '*tres humbles respêts*' to your Lordship, but does not mention one single word of politics or the King of Prussia, nor make the least enquiry after the Savoy or crutched Friars. Monsr. Zigenkagen is, I presume, well, by his saying nothing to the contrary. . . .

"I am, my Lord,
"Your Lordship's most obliged
"& most obedient humble Servant,
"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, June 20th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,—I have many thanks to return your Lordship for your very obliging letter & invitation to Newnham. It was not possible to comply with the latter, &, as the weather has turned out, perhaps it is better it was posponed 'till our return from Bristol. I long to examine every part of it in the minutest manner, even to its most concealed beauties, what such a divine as Jeremy Taylor would call its virgin & unripe retirements.

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"I finished sitting at Wilson's before I came out of town, & the picture seems to me very easy,

& amazingly like. He is pleased with it himself, & intends to take great pains in the colouring, &c. He is quite confident that you will like it.

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"Why is not a nightingale at Cockthrop as musical as in the Cascinos at Florence? Fie upon you, my Lord, domestic happiness is the only happiness worth having. The scandal part I know you are vastly averse to, & so is Miss West.

"*I am quite ashamed* to have gone on thus far without congratulating your Lordship upon the public news. We have had a letter from Stephens, on a scrap of glazed peach paper, dated from the English camp at Chateau Richieu en Bretagne. They had just received orders to re-embark when he wrote. The office-wing at Middleton is very near covered in; the kitchen has a glorious fire in it, & has been made use of the whole time we have been here.

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bristol, July 12th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . You please me excessively when you talk of your satisfaction at home: pursue it, & enjoy it; an every-day happiness is the thing; your occasional holydays you may take into the bargain. You are very French & very fine with regard to my picture, so fine that that part of your

letter is unanswerable, & I can only say I am much obliged for your sentiments. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bristol, July 24th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I am glad you have so fine an entertainment at Althorpe as the pictures you speak of. Mr. Hamilton, who is here, confirms your account of them. He talks highly, too, of General Guise's opinion of your Lordship's taste, but do not let it flatter you into being an absolute *virtuoso*. As an amusement it is excellent, but there are beauties of a still higher relish in morals & in actions. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 29th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . All I have to say in defence of my behaviour with regard to Aurelia is this: I cannot frame the story to my mind, so as to bring in the situations properly. Distress brought in without previous & natural leadings can affect nobody but those who are moved by white satin & black velvet. When I read it to your Lordship I could give hints of what I intended, & tell a thousand particulars in plain prose which poetry will hardly admit of. I could talk like boys of 'long before the beginning of this play,' &c., & of what passed in the green-room; but when all is

to be represented on the stage it becomes a different affair, & you would not like to receive your information from a conversation between Mrs. Bennet & Mr. Mozeen, tho' it should even be enlivened towards the end with a little dash of Miss Bradshaw or Mr. Rastor. Think of these things, my Lord, & you will excuse my niceness. However, I will promise you to take it up when I go to Town again, & try whether I can new model it. In the meantime I have other pursuits, not to mention Birthday and New Year's odes, one of which I sent this morning to the Duke of Devonshire, and shall send it to Dr. Boyce in about a fortnight, to be recitatived, aired, & chorussed. I begin to be heartily tired of 'selling myself for vanity to rhyming & the devil,' & find an affection for prose authors grow upon me mightily.

"Do you hear anything of Mason? it begins to be time that he should answer my last letter. I am in doubt whether he may not by this time be got to Sion-hill; at Aston he is a good correspondent. If your Lordship knows where he is I shall be glad of the information. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 9th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Lord and Lady Hyde are expected here to-morrow. It is some time ago since I visited Persfield & Abbey Tintern, but

I remember being excessively struck with them. They are beauties which partake strongly of the wonderful, and leave poor art at a great distance: to talk in your own way, they are strokes of Shakespear.

"You talk of seeing my ode when it returns from the Lord Chamberlain, without considering that that is the 'Bourn from whence no poetry returns,' 'till it appears the ghost of itself mangled in a newspaper. Your Lordship shall see it, however, when I have the honor of seeing you, tho' it principally consists of what you detest, German history. My New Year's Ode will probably hit your fancy; I am heartily glad you condescend to read & talk plain prose; it is a very necessary commodity in life. The generality of mankind could not live even upon the quintessense of rainbows & moonshine. A good shoemaker is a good thing; without such assistance the most refined philosophers & best poets in the world, God knows, might go barefoot.

"I am utterly ignorant where Mason is at present, whether grumbling at Sion-hill, or scarce existing, thro' indolence, at Aston; but I expect every post will bring me a letter from him, &, I hope, tell me that he has finished his odes for 'Caractacus.' . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, Nov. 4th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I likewise called in upon Wilson; what he has done to the picture I cannot tell, but the likeness is considerably lessened. If I have time I am to give him a sitting before your Lordship comes to town: Captain Stephens finds no likeness at all, & Mr. Wright very little.

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"Admiral Boscawen's arrival the common papers have informed you of, as well as the taking Fort Frontenac. Am I to congratulate your Lordship on having the County of Oxford left open to you the next election? You should begin to accustom yourself to drink violet. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, December 16th*, 1758.

"MY LORD,— . . . We still abound in company, & Lord Holdernesse is expected every day. The new comedy is not yet come on at our theatre. Since I wrote the above Lord Holdernesse is arrived, &, tho' he has not seen Miss Ford, is perfectly convinced from my representations of her that she is the wife in the world for Mason. She is excellent in music, loves solitude, & has immeasurable affectations; we think of proposing her to him. She is unfortunately in love already, but then there are some objections to her present passion. The man, indeed, is six foot high, is an officer, and has a charming person; but having a wife and three children, &, what is still worse, being at present on an expedition to Senegal, we are in hopes we may prevail. Painting is likewise her most favorite amusement, & for poetry, she has herself translated most of Metastatio's operas. Before I go on any farther, I ought to ask if your Lordship would not chuse I would rather interest myself for you? She would hit your *fantasque* to a hair, & the Ford family is exceedingly ancient, confessedly before the Bridges, so that the Duchess of Chandos must sink before her. Let me know your determination instantly. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park.*

"MY LORD,— . . . . I fancy Hurd's reason for saying so little about Mary, Q. of Scots, is because he thought the situation of the times was such that it was Queen against Queen, & Protestantism against Popery; the two last dialogues are very great favorites of mine. Lady Jersey was something out of order yesterday, but is better to-day. I will talk with your Lordship about Barrington when I have the honor to see you at Middleton.

Is not the sensitive plant a little apt to be ruffled on the slightest touch? I remember Prior says—

"'And with quick horror flies the neighb'ring hand.'

* * * * * *

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, June 23rd*, 1759.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship is somewhat unconscionable to expect a long letter from an empty town, and from a person who very seldom goes out. A short one is much at your service, with many thanks for your obliging remembrance of me. Lady Jersey continues to mend, but very slowly. The little strength her Ladyship was ever mistress of seems mighty unwilling to return, but I hope when they can possibly let her begin to travel the air will have good effects. The town is so abominably hot that we have all-night sweats as well as Lord Villiers; his health, in general, seems re-established. As to Mary and Elizabeth, they were both undoubtedly of the Brim kind, but Mary was the handsomest woman. It is, I suppose, in complaisance to her beauty that you suppose her quite ignorant of her husband's murder. That husband was a sad, foolish fellow, & in point of morals they were pretty well matched.

* * * * * *

"Wilson has made some alterations in my picture, which Mason said were much for the better.

Mason set out for Aston last Tuesday or Wednesday, nor would be prevailed upon to stay, tho' he was actually out of order. 'Caractacus,' as far as I can find, seems to be received as it ought to be. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Hotwell, Bristol, July 24th*, 1759.

"MY LORD,— . . . I am of opinion, at this distance, that the University acted right in not admitting Sheridan to harangue them. He is a kind of adventurer, & I have very little opinion of receipts for oratory. Your Lordship did very properly in not accepting your degree; party at a University is abominable, & every head that wore a blue cockade, or any cockade, to distinguish party, ought to have been broken. What were the *Terræ filius's* that I saw advertised in the Oxford paper? I presume they were low abuse by persons unknown upon persons unknown. Does your Lordship hear anything of Mason? I believe I told you in my last that I had heard from Mrs. Wright that he had been very ill at Aston, but was recovering. I hope it was only the fever of fame, which a poet gets over mighty easily. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 29th*, 1759.

"MY LORD,—How can you possibly expect, after so many & repeated reflections thrown out upon the shortness of my letters, my scrawl, &c., &c., that I should ever venture to correspond with you at all? Your Lordship's handwriting is undoubtedly very much like that of a nobleman, & I dare say the first Duke of Normandy (if he *could* write) used exactly such characters. We inferior beings are contented to have our meanings decipher'd, & I cannot help looking upon your Lordship as exceedingly obliged to me for affording you such amusing employment in the country. This is certainly an s, no, it is a t, I'll lay you a pot of coffee of it, with a few comical conceits & a loud laugh or two, might make a whole fire-side happy for a long winter's evening, & send them away at last with an ardent desire for the *next merry meeting*. Could the hand of a writing-master produce any such effects, tho' he drew pens & swans all round the paper? This likewise is an art which makes a short letter a long one, & tho' you complain of a side & a-half, you cannot in conscience deny that you are as long in reading it as if it was a compleat sheet of paper.

* * * * * *

"My poor mare I am afraid I must part with, & I assure you it grieves me, for she has many good qualities, & has done me infinite service. Was I master of an acre of ground of my own she should run in it for life, & I would sow it with fresh hay-seed for her. Poor thing, she will be reduced to carry turnips & cabbages to market, & keep company with asses, after having lived seven months in high life; she is, I dare say, of a very good family, her head & forehead proclaim it.

* * * * * *

"Mason has at last written to me, tho' not till I forced him to answer me a question. He is as peevish & discontented as ever, & grown still fonder of that terrible French word *ennui*. He tells me Dr. Brown is going to write against his Elegy to Hurd, & to prove him a liar with regard to what he says about the stage, & his not chusing to have his performances appear there. As to his Elegy, I told him my opinion of it long ago. His quarrels with authors he shall have entirely to himself. Your Lordship will be so good as to make my respects and compliments acceptable at Cockthorpe, & when you write to the Captain of Dragoons[b] I must beg you would insert my congratulations. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

[b] Lord Nuneham's brother.

"*Bath, November 25th*, 1759.

"MY LORD,— .... I take it mortally ill that your Lordship has not wished me joy of Lord Villiers' success in the House of Commons. However, I content myself with the very friendly & uncommon congratulations which Mr. Pitt has sent to Lord Jersey; indeed his Lordship has had as many addresses on the occasion as his Majesty on the taking Quebec. I was most excessively pleased with Mr. Spencer; there is something uncommonly agreable in his voice & manner, & the matter & diction of his speech were just what they should be. I hope they will both continue what they have begun so well, & if they do, one thing I am sure of, that they will always speak sense. ....

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 2nd*, 1760.

"MY LORD,— .... Had your Lordship come hither last week, contrary to my expectation, you had not found the family alone, Lord & Lady Weymouth & Mr. Thynne were here; the last still continues, & will stay 'till Monday. The north-room has been hanselled with two balls, at the latter of which auxiliaries were called in from Sr. James Dashwood's. A tabor & pipe & two fiddles formed the orchestra, & there was a very brilliant appearance of eight couple. I am

afraid there were too many people for your Lordship to have liked them all, or even to have supported the being in the same room with them. You need not have expatiated in your letter on that particular part of your Lordship's constitution, I know it very well, 'tis what Mason, as well as your Lordship, calls 'an *ennui*.' I cannot think you compliment Mr. West by saying he has the same infirmity; should people love one another better because they have both of them the jaundice? I mention that distemper only to hint to you where the real fault lies:—

"'For all's infected that the infected spy,
As all seems yellow to the jaundic'd eye.'

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"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 16th*, 1760.

"MY LORD,— .... I am glad to find travelling agrees with my picture, I always thought all the features like, but the result of the whole not so, perhaps the light you have placed it in is advantageous to it. ....

"W. WHITEHEAD.

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"Col. Johnson cut off two men's heads with his own hand, notwithstanding Miss West cautioned him against being so vulgar before he went abroad.

It is thought he will send her over the scalps to adorn her toilet."

"*Middleton Park, June 22nd*, 1761.

"MY LORD,—The most disagreable thing your Lordship can receive must be a letter from the country, which is the only revenge I shall take upon you for your assertions & innuendos in your letter to my Lord Villiers. I had left cards at your door with all the unmeaning politeness of a person of your own rank; had called to inform you that we were hurrying out of Town,—as indeed you must have imagined, as you could not but know the unfortunate cause of it;—I had done even more: had been at Drury-lane House of a hot night, & stayed over the dance by Polly Capitani, in hopes of finding you, & yet you abuse me for want of attentions. All the harm I wish you is that you may stay the whole summer gossiping in Town, without knowing any one hour of it what to do with yourself. This I take to be pretty nearly your case at present, & that you would give your ears to be in Oxfordshire, if you was not afraid that Lady Cecilia & the Paganinis would think it vulgar. You are exactly in the situation of the poor Lady in Dr. Young's 'Satires,' who sat yawning & tired to death of herself & everything else, and yet—

"'Why went she not to bed?—because 'twas night.'

"Fie upon you, my Lord; leave your Venetian ballads & your dusty streets for scenes like these—

"'Where every bush with nature's music sings,
And every breeze bears health upon its wings.'

"However, before you come, let us hear a little of what is going forward in your horrid metropolis. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, June 30th*, 1761.

"MY LORD,—You a wit, you a bravery of the age, & a frequenter of the pastimes of the Town, & not understand irony, because it happened to be a little dull! And so my letter, it seems, was all serious from the beginning to the end; and I left my cards out of *real* form, and I love the country to distraction, & all that. You are an unhappy splenetic thing, & want the clear country air more than I thought you did. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, Aug. 24th*, 1761.

"MY LORD,— . . . . . I have thought nothing about my comedy for some time past. It would be very extraordinary if none of the Pritchard family were to play in it, & yet Mrs. Poyntz tells me that she believes Mrs. Palmer advances so hap-

pily in her pregnancy, that it is doubtful whether she will play much this following winter, & Cælia, you know, must not be with child. But why do I talk of these trifles to your Lordship, who are totally immersed in weddings & coronations? I shall expect to find you a compleat courtier, that '*creeping, climbing, hot, cold* thing,' as Aaron Hill expresses it; & if I get a glimpse of you in the few days I am in London, 'must thank my stars, & call it luxury.' . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 28th*, 1761.

"MY LORD,—I have once more the honour of addressing myself to your Lordship from the retirement of the country. It was with great difficulty, however, that I got away from London, for the twenty thousand additional people who came to see the coronation, were all setting out the same morning with myself, & not a post-horse to be had. You may guess I was very much vexed. At last a pair of horses were procured, which, as I was afterwards informed, were a waiting-job belonging to an old lady, who was to be deprived of her airing, & to be told that one of them was fallen lame; so much did the master of them prefer a little present profit to the obliging & constant customer. A pair of fine cattle they were, & whisked me to Uxbridge presently; I found no difficulty afterwards, & at Wickham mounted my own horse,

& rode to Middleton, where I arrived safe, but not without being a 'borrower of the night for a dark hour or twain.'

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"My friend Mr. Wright, who is at Dr. Harding's, talked of doing himself the honour of calling upon your Lordship. He wants your advice about prints, &c., which are proper to send to a young lady who loves drawing. Don't endeavour to impose upon him as a country clergyman, & make him send improper ones, for he is a Court Chaplain likewise, & will find you out. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 31st*, 1761.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I presume you have kept your irresolution, & staid in Town. I don't exactly remember the Duke de Longueville's character, but your Lordship acts very consistently with your own. I remember somewhere a Latin epigram on a weathercock which ends with this line,

"'Et solum est constans in levitate suâ.'

* * * * * *

"What has become of Mason the preacher? Does he ever write to your Lordship? The *poet*, I know, was always a bad correspondent. Aston must have abundance of beauty at this time of the year, especially as it proves a wet season. Even their coals will not mend their roads now, unless

they could light them. Did he carry an apparatus of glasses down with him? for that was his scheme when I saw him in Town. I advised him to call the instrument a *Boufett*, to prevent his neighbours giving it the worse title of a butler's pantry. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 19th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Your Lordship knows that I rejoiced much at Lady Cecilia's marriage. I rejoice equally in her pregnancy, & dare promise she will make a good wife, and a fruitful vine.

"Mrs. Pritchard's success gives me pleasure; when you know more particulars let me have them.

"As to books, I have read nothing since I left London, nor once opened my *porte feuille*, tho' it is full of combustibles.

"Mrs. Vernon (I suppose you know) is again with child. I have advised her to keep the embrio cool this warm weather by eating sallads & fruits. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, August 16th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I can begin with nothing better than my congratulations to your Lordship on the birth of the Prince of Wales, as I know you are deeply interested in all great national events, or at least that you ought to be so. Possibly you are now in London to felicitate his Majesty, & I shall therefore address my letter to Cavendish-square.

* * * * * *

"I ride night and morning, and live the life of a post-boy. Physicians may say what they will, but fresh air & exercise are no such great things; they ought to be mixed with a little smoke, & dirt, & indolence. I was as well, in general, last winter, when I did not ride at all, as I am at present. A journey is well enough, but continual *taking the air* is a sad thing. I still heartily wish I could ramble with you to Wilton, &c., but the same impossibility continues. Another year may be more propitious, unless a wife (which I very much wish) should have stepped into your post-chaise; tho' then I can ride on horseback, or be pretty company to the Abigail in the calash, & rival the butler.

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"How does your Lordship like the *tender* manifestoes of the Czarina with regard to her husband's imprisonment and death? I am afraid she does not drink quite so much mild ale as he did. I wished myself with you at Barington, where I suppose you have been, as you signified such intentions in your last, & as Lady Talbot informed me that she expected you. I hope this fine summer has been of great use to Lady Harcourt. Within the last

day or two I presume the dog-days are begun, for it is monstrous cold. Do you ever hear anything of the Precentor, or is he wholly immersed in ecclesiastical matters? Mr. Fitzherbert & I have agreed that he must have his train borne at last, & 'take homage of the simple-minded crowd, embassador of Heaven!' . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 26th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,— . . . . All these late pieces of Rousseau I am quite a stranger to, except some extracts from them which have appeared in reviews & newspapers. He is a fine writer, but he loves paradoxes & sophisms a little too much, & seems to have worked himself up almost into a belief of them. I shall read him, however, when I have leisure; tho' I rather love authors who are strictly true as well as amusing. Your Lordship, I know, is of a different opinion; but some years hence you will think as I do.

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"Several of the places you intend to visit must be well worth seeing. Wilton I have long panted after; I should expect there to be put in mind of Italy, & at Stonehenge I should reverence the Druids. May good news from the Havannah [c] make your journey more pleasing.

"W. WHITEHEAD."

[c] Lord Nuneham's brother was quartered there.

"*Middleton Park, Sep. 18th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,—I will say again & again that you are an excellent correspondent; you have been half my support this whole summer. I expect every day a continuation of your Journal, & wish I could return you anything as amusing, but that is not in my power.

* * * * * *

"What a charming relief the jaunt with your Lordship would have been to me; Wilton, Stonehenge, the New Forest, &c., would have revived ideas which at present seem quite dead in me; & you know I love being upon the road, tho' it is Westphalian. The Dean of Salisbury was very obliging to wish for my company; that is a kind of town & society which I am sure I should like vastly; nay, possibly, prefer it to London.

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"I presume this letter will catch your Lordship on the wing for the Installation; O that blue ribbon [d]! But I say no more; it is a tender subject. People to be sure had it who lie buried in Stanton Harcourt Church; & who would not be buried to have it dangle in statuary marble from their tomb? especially in Stanton Harcourt Church. Heigh ho!

[d] Lord Nuneham at this time thought his father ill-used at not having the garter given him in reward for his services.

"I hope your Lordship said very handsome things for me to Lord Delawar on my not being able to wait upon him, & the honour he did me in desiring it. If Lady Cecilia was there you are doubtless well acquainted by this time with the nature of pregnancy, & will be able yourself to conduct Lady Nuneham through the several stages of it. I like to know a little of everything, & shall be glad of some lectures on the subject when I see your Lordship in town. Lady Talbot talks highly of the pleasure she received from your company at Barington. I wish I could have been on that party too, but everything with me is another year.

"W. WHITEHEAD.

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"I hope Winchester pleased your Lordship, for I have a partiality for the venerable place of my education. The inside of that cathedral is very fine; the college, to me, has its antique allurements. In the Library there your Lordship might have seen a pedigree traced literally from Adam to Henry the Sixth. Whether the Harcourt name is in it or not I really forget, but I am afraid many parts of it are fabulous. Perhaps your Lordship was entirely taken up with the Camp of the Militia."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 24th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,— .... As to the speech you talk of at Lady Talbot's, I really remember nothing at all of the matter; nor that I ever heard Churchill's name mentioned in such company. If I was ever guilty of so vulgar and common-place an expression, unless in jest, in any company at all, I should think I deserved a reprimand for it. I may have lamented, & perhaps with indignation, his throwing away his talents on subjects unworthy of him, and chusing to be a poet upon the town, rather than consulting the moral dignity of the character, particularly as he was a clergyman. I think so still, & am afraid the worst enemy he will ever meet with will be himself. A little of the dull method he complains of in me would be of infinite service to him, for, as yet, he has written nothing but rapsodys with striking parts in them. His legitimate works are still to come; & if they ever do come I shall be one of the first to applaud them, for I honour the art, tho' I seldom & very occasionally practise it.

"I see by the papers that Mr. Howit of Salisbury is bringing a pastoral upon the stage, merely, I presume, to show off Mr. Norris. He is above regarding the success of it in any other respect than its being of use to the performer; & has too much merit real and intrinsic to be hurt at a repulse from the wits and braveries. I shall

be glad to know the traits you mention of Garrick, tho' nothing shall ever induce me to quarrel with any of them. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Nov. 6th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,— . . . . The trait of Garrick I can easily believe; his temper is of that kind, & yet I do not think him an ill-natured man. I could give them stronger strokes against me than any they have launched, for half of them, considered rationally, are almost compliments.

* * * * * *

"I hope Mr. Stillingfleet is still with you; his writings are of that kind which must render him respectable everywhere, & shew great good sense with an amiable disposition. I dare say as a friend & companion he is excellent, & how superior is that to all authorism! . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Nov. 10th*, 1762.

"MY LORD,—I cannot pretend to answer your letters, I can only thank you for them. I neither see nor hear anything which can possibly amuse you; London I pant after, but our departure from hence is by no means fixed, tho' the weather grows very cold, & the days very short. Lord

Villiers gives me great pleasure by the account he has heard of your brother's behaviour at the Havannah, & I congratulate you & your family on the occasion.

"Amongst all the actors you mentioned I think your Lordship might have bestowed one line upon him who has played his part so well, & indeed I was impatient to hear of him. I hope he will now volunteer it no longer, for climates are the worst of enemies to encounter.

* * * * * *

"Churchill, I find, has been attacking me vehemently. I suppose he takes some part of the *charge* to himself, & does not feel the satire quite so pointless as he affects to call it. But peace be with him; a violent adversary, who says anything of anybody, is not a very dangerous one. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 11th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,— . . . . The Hyde family left Middleton on Friday last, as did her Grace the Duchess of Queensberry, after passing one night here, & endeavouring to recollect the ideas of past pleasure; she was exactly herself, very clever, very whimsical, & just not mad. The Duke of Grafton has likewise stayed one night here, so that we have lately been but little alone. Captain

Stephens is gone into waiting at Gunnersbury, where he is the only male creature admitted; so rigid are the laws of the place that his man-servant is not allowed to attend him. Her Highness's own footmen are, I presume, properly prepared, & the Chaplain, you know (according to Lady Wishfort's account), wears petticoats. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, August 2nd*, 1763.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I most heartily wish Lord Villiers was really going to be married, but I literally know nothing of the matter.

* * * * * *

"As to my own marriage, which you retort upon me, the power, not the will, is wanting. Could I maintain a wife, & find a proper one, I would not be long unshackled. A moderate precarious income has but little allurement in these days, when

'No rat is rhimed to death, nor maid to love;'

& indeed it would be madness to think of raising a family without a prospect of at least a tolerable provision for them. As a single man I can jog on, easy, if not happy, but when (as has been said of a parson's wife in her black bombazeen) *post equitem sedet atra cura*, the case, my good Lord, is strangely altered; but of this enough. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 11th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—I had the honour of your last the day I returned from Bath; I am ashamed to say how long that is ago, but purging waters always make people good-natured & forgiving, so that if you are still at Brighthelmstone I am safe.

"The distress your delicacy must have felt from the distance and other circumstances of a certain temple made me laugh extremely; I know you was never fond of public worship, tho' you often saw it performed on the ramparts at Rheims, where young men & maidens, old men & children met together to celebrate M—ass, properly uncovered. It was the only foreign custom you did not eagerly embrace, & I despair of your ever acquiring a proper confidence for it in this dull climate. The true *mauvaise honte* is peculiarly English, for we are not only shame*faced*, but —— I need say no more. Your other difficulties of the landlady, stage-coachmen, & waggoners, I should rather have enjoyed, as the fine Neapolitan air you talk of would have made one chearful. That shivering after bathing was not right, & I shall hope to hear you felt no more of it. The papers tell us of terrible storms which attacked your *fine air* in particular, & did great damage. Mr. Vernon[e],

[e] Eldest son of Lord Vernon by his first wife, a Howard of Effingham. Mr. Vernon married the heiress of Newick in Sussex, & had also a property in Wales.

too, sends shocking accounts of the havoc at Newick. I fancy your Lordship imagined yourself at Naples in reality, & that Vesuvius & the *solfa-terra* were both let loose upon you. We had lightning in abundance but no mischief, tho' we passed Barford Downs that very day, called at Lady Talbot's, & reached Middleton in the evening.

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"Lord Villiers is with us at present, & has been some time; not a partridge in the country can be quiet for him, he quite stocks Lord Jersey's table with game, & walks among stubble & furze for six or eight hours together, not without a pretty deal of detriment to his legs, which are stuck all over with thorns like a pincushion. Does not your Lordship envy him his diversion? The hounds, too, I think they say, are to be out to-morrow; I shall probably if I ride out, be in at the death of something or other. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 6th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—If ever I should be tempted to write the history of your Lordship's life, I shall certainly beg the favour to have your own character drawn by yourself, you do it so impartially. I could swear to the truth of every part of your behaviour at Brighthelmstone, from the zenith of your popularity to its mild decline. Why would

not you come away a fortnight sooner? Was it necessary that they should see your shades as well as your lustre? It is said of Queen Elizabeth that she always chose to have her pictures drawn without shade, but your Lordship is too good a painter to put us off with a half-performance, tho' that I think it might have done very well for strangers, & you might have reserved your blemishes, as most people do, for your particular friends. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 22nd*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship was in a most delightful humour when you did me the honour of writing your last; your own words of *ennuié* & *ennuiant* seem to paint it exactly. That same Rousseau has so much really excellent in him, that you take the bad part for granted, & are as much convinced by his sophistry as his reasoning. A misanthrope must be of all men the most compleatly miserable; he is continually acting in contradiction to his nature, & has no support under necessary or accidental evils, because he wants the social affections. Happily for mankind, whatever your Lordship at certain times may think, no such being did ever exist,—

'No bandit fierce, no tyrant mad with pride,
No cavern'd hermit, rests *self*-satisfied;
All who to shun or hate mankind pretend,
Seek an admirer, & would fix a friend.'

So charmingly does even our vanity, when we have no better motive, counteract our pride. But enough of this; if I go on much farther we shall divide your Lordship's words between us, I shall be the *ennuiant*, & you the *ennuié*.

* * * * * *

"Now for the weather (for you complain of the shortness of my letters). The season here, tho' cold, is very fine; the hounds of the hunters, & guns of the shooters, sound in my ears every morning, & Blossom has fallen down with me but once. The verdure, indeed, seems in a hurry to leave both the trees & the park, & the dying flowers hang their heads as if they intended shortly to adorn the bier of nature. There's pretty writing for you; nothing steals on more flowingly towards the bottom of a page than a stream of poetical allusions, & if one must pile it, you know, one must. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Nov. 8th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—I am now writing to you booted & spurred, it being that kind of morning in which restless people cannot well go out, & yet do not chuse to stay comfortably at home. Lord Villiers, indeed, & Captain Stephens are, by this time, up to the knees in water shooting snipes, & Lord Jersey & your humble servant have been in the

garden, shifting quarters, as the rain permitted, from the stoves to the green-house. Such weather will, I hope, soon drive us to London: if we must enjoy wet air I would chuse to have it in perfection on the banks of the Thames.

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"I have just read Churchill's *fourth* book of the 'Ghost.' It is infinitely worse than any of the former; a confused heap of vulgar, common-place stuff, without having the least ease, which is the very thing it aims at. I suppose it was written merely to fill up his volume: the ten-syllable verse is his fort, if he does not write too much of it. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, June 21st*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . Before I go any farther I must ask your Lordship what is the best thing to get mildew off from pictures? two of the best at Middleton are much infected with it. I heartily wish your Lordship & Mason were here to clean them; it would be instructive to us & amusing to yourselves, & an excuse, during this fine weather, for never stirring out of doors. I was up this morning by six o'clock, &, besides the fresh air, &c., had the satisfaction of seeing a heron shot, who was come a fishing to one of the ponds.

It was full as good sport as our heron hunting at Dresden, exclusive of the sham quarrels & that innocent merriment we had the honour to partake of when Royalty condescended to unbend itself. But you are an infidel with regard to the country, & therefore I will enjoy it quietly, & say no more of it. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 5th*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . . We have odd accounts here of your cousin Guerchy[f], as if he had exerted a little French tyranny against that sacred animal an English constable. Can it be true? The constable doubtless is of *no family*, but, as Shakespear says, 'a dog's obeyed in office,' & few courts of law have the happiness to have such respectable persons as Mr. Edmondson at the head of them. And yet how preferable would a Court of Honour be to that vulgar thing a Court of Equity, —perish the *canaille!*

* * * * * *

"Your Lordship's receipt for the pictures shall be followed this very day, if it is in my power to prevail. You are certainly in the right in your '*tirer parti de tout*,' when necessity, or our proper attentions to other people require it; at other times I would chuse my amusements; & even

[f] Son of the Duc de Harcourt.

in the hogstye & cow-yard, as Addison says of Virgil's shepherds, 'I would toss my dung about with an air of majesty.' I should have supposed that the pleasures of imagination would have been exactly to your Lordship's taste. That delicate painting of the finer feelings, that giving 'to airy nothing a local habitation and a name,' are the things in the world which seem most suited to your errors[g] as well as your excellencies. We must read them together when we have an opportunity. Has your Lordship seen the 'Life of Cardinal Pole?' It is written by an acquaintance of mine, &, that you may be more partial to it, an ingenious man, & a *Catholic* priest; I have not read it yet, but shall have it down this week. The Cardinal was an uncommon man, & made a figure at the revival of learning, besides his blood-royal connections with our Mary & Elizabeth. There seems scope for a pleasing history; how it is executed I know not. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, August 7th*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I shall be very glad to be shewn *Nune*ham[h] at my return from Bath,—which

[g] "N.B. I put in *errors* because in your last you were very vain."

[h] The spelling was altered from "Newnham," at this time, to distinguish the place from various other Newnhams which exist. Mr. Whitehead & Lord Villiers used to joke about the alteration.

is my present residence,—& hope I shall not be an unworthy worshipper even in the Grecian temple. I love a little heathenism *in buildings*, & should have made a good practical idolater. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 25th*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . I have seen nothing of Lord Herbert's Life, which I fancy must be amusing. He was a philosophical man, & thought a good deal for himself, & lived, as you say, in a romantic age; from all which his manners must have taken a tincture very different from modern nobility. I have but little prospect of reading it till I get to Town, & then it will probably be by your Lordship's means. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 21st*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I have gone through my friend the Catholic's book more minutely than your Lordship, & am afraid, if the laws were strictly put into execution, my friend might be hanged for his performance; (in Sweden they would only have gelt him). It is a barefaced attack upon the Reformation, & as barefaced a defence of the Catholic religion. He seems as great a bigot as his hero the Cardinal; the Pope & the unity of the Church bewitched them both. I am

told likewise (for I had not the books to refer to) that his quotations are often false, or mangled & misrepresented; that he has borrowed his learning from Collier's History; & that nothing but his style, some occasional reflections, & his good intentions of saving our souls, are his own. I had a good deal of amusement, however, from the first parts of his book. The Council of Trent, after all his defence of it, was undoubtedly what Bolingbroke calls it, 'a solemn banter.' Charles V., Francis I., & even the Pope himself, had only a mind to please some well-meaning people, to cheat the vulgar, & to confirm their several monarchical powers. The pompous description of High Mass must have tickled your Lordship's religious notions, I am sure, for it made me laugh very much. How poor Erasmus is abused for being a little comical; but I will shew you something with regard to that when I have the pleasure of seeing you; and pray, when is that to be? We have nobody here but Lord Villiers, who has dined two days at Blenheim, & danced one night with the Duke of York. Lord Jersey has been confined to his bed-chamber for some days past, but hopes to get downstairs again to-morrow.

"Is there anything in what we see in the newspapers of an intended match between Mademoiselle Nangis & the Chevalier Déon? Now all the Harcourt, Guise, Lorrain blood rises in your face.

He marry Mademoiselle! Why, my Lord, something has certainly happened to stop his publications, & it might do Monsieur Guerchy no harm in his negociations to have such a son-in-law. But this, I perceive, is a tender subject, & therefore I desist. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Nov. 4th*, 1764.

"MY LORD,— . . . . What a slip Lady Harriet W—— has made; an Irishman, a footman, & who has been a foot-soldier. They were asked, it seems, regularly in St. George's Church, & are set out for Ireland. North America is the proper receptacle for ladies of quality who have made a *faux pas;* we should enrich our colonies with half-strained illustrious blood. The name of Sturgeon, however, is not so heroic as one could wish, unless they would settle in our fisheries; there, indeed, they might make a figure. Are not you unmarried young men of quality principally to blame for these errors of the ladies? Mend, therefore, & marry. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 14th*, 1765.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I have been in the country above this month, & have heard scarce anything but political news, except the unfortunate end of the D. of Bolton. The public papers, besides letters, will have told you the changes in the administration, as far as they have proceeded hitherto. Lord Villiers has kissed hands as Vice-Chamberlain, & performs, I believe, to-day for the first time in that office. Your other friend, Lord Spencer, will, I fancy, be an Earl. I hope to see your Lordship with a white stick, if it is consistent with your duty in another place. How the young administration is to go on I really cannot tell; but youth has some virtues undoubtedly which other folks have worn out, but then they have gained experience in the room of them, & cunning besides.

* * * * * *

"I am afraid we shall see but little of Mr. Vice-Chamberlain this summer, unless his Privy-Councellorship should be turned out again soon. Should not he get a little tie-wig, & a pair of very high-heeled shoes? Grave he will be enough, & keep a secret,—Lord! how he will keep a secret! If they knew him they would call him to the Cabinet. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, August 10th*, 1765.

"MY LORD,— . . . . We shall be at Middleton before the end of next week, where, if you can steal a moment from love, Lord Jersey will be very happy to see you; it lies naturally in your way to Derbyshire. O how the little heart there flutters! as Lady Beverley says in the play. I am

getting into a way lately of quoting myself, as Lord Villiers can testifie from my last letter to him. We authors are very vain.

* * * * * *

"I was got thus far in my letter when my apothecary came in to feel my pulse & propose an emetic; but Lord Jersey, a great doctor, is quite against it, so that I have escaped this time, & have since eat a better moderate dinner than I have done for many days past. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, August 22nd*, 1765.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship is never more entertaining in your letters than when you write in, what you call, an ill-humour. I own I am surprised that an admirer & a judge of painting, as you know a certain person is, should be such an enemy to its elder, & more comprehensive, sister, poetry; that an eye should distinguish beauty, & yet the understanding be blind to it, it must be the mechanical part of painting, & not the imaginative that strikes him. A virgin in the clouds with saints below, well done, would have the same effect with the death of Germanicus, or Guido's Crucifixion. It is the same undoubtedly with regard to prospects, many people are astonished at them who never feel them. But of this enough.

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"My mind as well as body is so much improved

by the Bath waters that I believe I shall write plays again whether I will or not. A thousand conceits are ready to boil over, but they may be only froth, a delicate allusion! some people would add that then all the fat will be in the fire, but I dare not offend your Lordship by such vulgarity. Why do you suffer the newspapers to be so indecent in their expressions? They not only say that a treaty of marriage is on foot, but likewise that it will be speedily *consummated;* sure this is as bad as Mrs. Vernon's speech about ringing the bell; both Lord Jersey & your humble servant were shocked at it. Not that it is not a very common manner of speaking, but we were apprehensive of its effects on chaste ears.

"But I must stop here, for I may be writing at this very moment, for aught I know, to a married man, & then spouse must see the letter. Some words in your last shew an impatience, which may have hurried things into execution sooner than I expected. I must begin to correct my stile, & weigh my expressions before I set them down. What would Lady Talbot think of this? I shall say to myself before I shall dare to insert a hint which even straggles toward incontinence. Yes, yes, I will match you for purity, I warrant you; you shall have no occasion to double down a single paragraph in any of my letters, or be once asked 'how far may I read, my Lord?'

"In the meantime your Lordship may write what you please to me, & as often as you please, & your direction will be always safest to Grosvenor-square. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 3rd,* 1765.

"MY LORD,—I do not like some parts of your letter; I am afraid your *ennui,* as you call it, is very busy in prejudging future events, & laying in a stock of imaginary distress, for fear the real should fail you. You are now entering into a scene of life which may be happy if *you* please; proper attentions to one person, & proper affection to another, are your grand points. The latter will be mighty easy, & the former not difficult, unless you make it so by being, what Pope says, 'tremblingly alive all o'er.' Banish little self & whim, & trust to your real good sense for the consequences. Nobody can wish for your happiness more than I do, & you shall not persuade me out of the expectation of it. Would you be angry with a blind man who laughed at you for seeing? certainly not, unless you chose to squint or play tricks with your eyes, & then you would feel you deserved it.

* * * * * *

"I shall like to hear the little history of the great French Court, & therefore beg you will not

forget it 'till after I have had the pleasure of meeting you; as to your wits & literaries, I should have liked to have heard something of them too, but if you have nothing to say about them I will take up with folly, which is much more laughable. Our heron-hunting with the King & Queen of Poland (not forgetting the Princes Xavier & Charles, Count Brughl, &c.) had more diversion in it than all we heard from Bell & Mascon, & you will remember little Ciangulo when you have forgotten Metastatio, Hyerolti, Voltaire, & Madamoisselle Denis. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 19th,* 1765.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I will add from myself that if you come to Nuneham & go from thence into Derbyshire, Middleton will lie in your way. I begin to be as impatient for the day as your Lordship can be, & you will see how matrimony was in my head by the inclosed little essay[1], which you must keep as a manuscript in your library for your own use & that of your posterity. It is a family receipt, but, oh grief of griefs, what a condition am I obliged to send it in; I had sew'd it together in another sheet of paper, with my own needle & my own silk (I have never an

[1] This essay has no particular merit, and is hardly in accordance with modern views of propriety in writing; it is therefore omitted.

huswife), as finically as Mason would have done, & lo! it was then too big for a letter, crumble it into what shape I would. If you think you shall have half the trouble in reading it which I had in writing it over, & stitching it together, throw it into the fire immediately; at all events let it be sewed up again, as the marks of the needle will direct, before you attempt to look at it. I have paged it, that there may be no mistake; it looked much handsomer in its cover. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 28th*, 1765.

"MY LORD,— I am desired by Lord Jersey to send his most affectionate compliments to your Lordship (as he is not very well able to write himself), & to beg that you will make his congratulations acceptable to the Harcourt & Vernon family on an event which gives him great pleasure, as he is sure it must greatly add to their happiness, as well as your Lordship's. You will give him infinite satisfaction by even the shortest visit you can make him with your own conveniency, & he takes the earliest opportunity of testifying his acknowledgements for the intention. I take the advantage of his sending a servant on purpose to offer my respects & congratulations at the same time, which I hope your Lordship will be so good as to introduce with propriety.

I am exceedingly obliged by your last letter, in which you are too partial to an idle attempt to amuse; I merely meant to ridicule the nonsensical trifles which often make even sensible people unhappy. King Stanislaus says in one of his maxims, that people who enter into the marriage state should not only promise to love one another, but to endeavour to please one another; a most material article. You cannot have more happiness than I most sincerely wish you, who am always, ...

"W. WHITEHEAD.

"P.S. The Bride & Bridegroom is our first toast after dinner."

"*Grosvenor-square, June 23rd*, 1766.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Your informers with regard to the Duke of Grafton are by no means in the secret, as you will perceive in the end. His character rises daily & hourly; & I am glad for posterity that he is a young man, for he will be their sheet-anchor one time or other. Lord Chatham is certainly better; the Opposition go on teizing, but lose ground continually; the Duke of Richmond & Lord Temple are the heroes. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 4th*, 1766.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Lord Jersey, your cousin Jersey, for he now always calls himself so, is laid

up in some measure with the gout, & has not been out of the house this week. He desires, nevertheless, his kindest compliments to you, & begs you would not forget to enquire after L'isle Adam in your return through France. I have a great notion myself that the cinquefoils were picked up in Leicestershire, or some other part of England, & did not come from Normandy; nay, I have some notion that the cross & escallops were prior to the times of Edward Iˢᵗ. (tho' then resumed), & rather belong to the first Crusade. But this is not a subject to talk of in a letter; if your Lordship was here I would teize you with conjectural proofs, 'till you almost laughed at that sacred science, Heraldry.

"Lord Villiers, fie upon him, troubles himself very little about his genealogy, & cares no more for the Conqueror, or even Charlemagne & Pharamond, than if no such worthies had ever existed. You may put a bead, or a fess, or a chevron, or nothing at all, between the cinquefoils, it is all one to him; & if you drop them entirely you have his consent very readily. The Duke of Buckingham put the cross first & the cinquefoils in the second place of his arms, & there they stand ready blazoned, three cinquefoils & a fess argent on a field sable. Is not this fine stuff to fill up a letter with? But what have I else to say? . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, August 12th*, 1766.

"MY LORD,—I can easily conceive how much such a place as Spa must take up your time, when the retirement, as it is called, of Middleton will not permit me to have a moment to myself. All water-drinking places have exactly the same rules, & indeed he would be a cruel physician who should order the frequenters of them to write & read, notwithstanding dissipation itself is the disease of most of them. Your Lordship & I know several persons by whom even a satirical touch upon the times, tho' not half the size of a six-penny pamphlet, and tho' it abused their dearest friends unmercifully, could never be gotten through without many doublings down. A serious 'Spectator,' or the best hundred lines in Milton, would be deadly poison to them, if they did not luckily always act as an opiate.

"Now I am on the subject of reading I must ask your Lordship whether you have heard anything lately of your friend Rousseau? His vanity, it seems, which you thought vanquished by his philosophy, has once more revived, and he has abused Mʳ. Hume extremely for not letting him be made a show of in London; so true are some parts of Voltaire's prophecy. Lord Villiers is my informer, & may possibly have acquainted your Lordship with more particulars. He certainly intended to do it, & to laugh likewise,

as far as his gravity could laugh in a letter. He told me, too, he should transmit to you the present state of politicks. Mr. Pitt's earldom makes a great noise: it has certainly, I am afraid, put him in the power of certain persons, if they chuse to play him false. But let us hope the best, & that he will be permitted to do *some* good before he is totally eclipsed by greatness. Lord Temple is outragious, & the Opposition may probably be formidable: but those are not the persons I fear. True magnanimity is rarely conquered by outward assaults; the arrow which flieth by day is trifling when compared with the pestilence which walketh in darkness. All this is *entre nous*, & perhaps should not have been written down.

"You delight me exceedingly when you tell me the waters are of service to you. I hope you find them still more & more so, & that the Chevalier Pouhon & Madamoiselle Geronstere grow fonder & fonder of you every day. *Les amours de Pouhon*, &c., with the nymphs & the mountains, are perfectly French; in English vulgarity it would have been 'The loves of Beau Pump & Miss Bucket,' with the comical humours of spout, handle, & rope.

"PUMP.—(*By Mr. Beard, in a languishing posture.*)

"'Give me water, lovely Bucket,
Thro' my own spout let me suck it;

Yet at what can water aim?
Water cannot quench my flame.'—*Da Capo.*

"BUCKET.—(*By Mrs. Clive, in a brown lute-string lined with pea-green, curled & powdered.*)

'Ah me, Mr. Pump,
You give such a thump
To my heart every word that you speak,
That, if my relations
Thwart my inclinations,
I am sure my poor sides they will break.
But I am determined with you to elope,
Or else I will hang myself in my own rope.
But I am determined, determined, determined,
I'm determined, Fol de rol de rol, &c.'

"N.B. The music by the best composers.

"Your cousin Jersey desires his kindest compliments, & says the relationship is the pride of his life; he honours the widow Montmorency for the judiciousness of her choice. You are very lucky in meeting with Prince Firmian; he cannot remember *me*, or I should offer my respects. Your Lordship may offer them, however, to Mrs. Craster, & say civil things from Lord Jersey to the same lady. Do you hear anything from Prince Firmian of our other friend, Count Sauro, or of his brother, whom we knew at Naples? You say nothing of Lady Nuneham, & therefore I pre-

sume she is well, &, I hope, diverted; my best wishes and respects always attend her. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD.

"P.S. Is your Lordship of the Picheley Hunt? They wear, I find, red coats, with white capes; coat gules, cape argent.

"Your Lordship will remember, if you come through France, to inquire after the three cinquefoils & fess argent in field sable,—whether that was the Villiers's arms, or whether they bore the cross and escallops in France, after the first (not second) Crusade?"

"*Middleton Park, September 26th*, 1766.

"MY LORD . . . . The parliament, undoubtedly, will meet the eleventh of November, & Lord Chatham will then see whether the nation chuses to be saved or not. The scurrility against him has been very poor; but the discontent with regard to his peerage rather too general. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, Dec. 21st*, 1766.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Apropos to you gentlemen *virtuosi* & *connoisseurs*. I lodge in the house of a miniature painter, who has a daughter that is a miracle. Her drawings are greatly admired, & she gets premiums every year from the Arts &

Sciences. Her ambition is to be the Angelica of ten years hence. I have not yet visited her, fie upon me; Mason would have sat with her from morning to night, & have hung over her—I mean her drawings—enamoured. Her eldest sister, the mantua-maker, is a very well-bred, chatty girl; I have a good deal of conversation with her. They know I have been in Italy, I must therefore be very cautious of exposing my ignorance in the *fine arts*. I have forgotten all the terms, but hope, by means of a judicious reserve, & a little obliging admiration, to come off tolerably; I will let your Lordship know my success. Lord Villiers, by his letters, seems very well entertained at Althorpe, & I am excessively glad of it, but I am afraid Christmas, or New Year's Day, or some nonsense or other, will call him up to Town sooner than he would wish.

"I forgot to tell your Lordship that our young paintress is a musician too, & cuts paper as divinely as the angel in the punch-house sign mentioned by the 'Spectator' squeezes lemons. She seems to have all Mason's qualifications except his poetry,—at least I have heard nothing of that yet, but shall not be surprized if I should find out that she has, now & then, busied herself in writing sonnets to Damon. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, Dec. 28th*, 1766.

"MY LORD,—You are very comical, I believe I should say comic, in your description of a country Christmas. There are great numbers who would be very happy to partake of those jollities which you treat with ridicule; I am not sure that I should not like some of them myself, especially if your Lordship was there, for your *ennui* would entertain me. Tho' you talk of your solitude with pleasure, I think there is a little spleen in your expressions which does not look like absolute content; either you did not like the opera, or Lady Something had disgusted you there, or Louis was not at home when you came back, or the bread was toasted too little, or was too much burned. In short, some grievance of equal consequence there was which mixed itself with your stile, & gave a serious turn even to your merriment.

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"I have had as good a dinner lately as you could possibly have had in Derbyshire, with Mr. Colborne, whom you saw at Spa, & some of his Christmas friends, & I do assure you great good humour on all sides made it very agreable. Your Lordship would have thought some of the ladies vulgar, perhaps, but we were *very merry*, and I had my *bon-mots* & *repartiés* as well as they.

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"You should go & sit a charitable evening now

& then in Grosvenor-square, & not bear malice. Lord Villiers, I presume, must be up for New Year's Day. I take it for granted he is well, tho' he has not told me so lately.....

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, April 27th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship's letter is so superabundantly obliging that I scarce know how to answer it; indeed I should quite despair if there were not mixed with the compliments some reflections on my incapacity of being pretty company. Now that I positively deny, and could bring very many country ladies & country gentlemen, who are here at present, to vouch for the contrary; but yesterday, in the evening, I was rather more than amusing to at least a dozen of them, & I assure you my reputation rises as I make myself more & more public. Self-defence obliges me to this declaration, and modesty must, for once, submit. As to any satisfaction I gave your Lordship at Nuneham, it could be only that of not confining you. I was delighted with the place, & your Lordship's behaviour to me, but I do not remember that I was guilty of being in the least entertaining; I rather bore my faculties meekly than made any violent display of them, & continued in that complacent stile till I arrived at Bath.

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"There are the fewest people of quality here that I think I ever remember in so full a season, but I have private acquaintance in abundance. Mr. Garrick & I are dear friends, & a great deal of civility passes between me & our other wits. The waters agree with me, as usual: I am at present lodged in a magician's house, & talk as wisely & as cautiously upon magic as I did last year upon painting.

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"I have seen the 'English Merchant' performed here, & am going to-night to the 'Maid in the Mill.' Mrs. Reddish, who played Lady Alton, is really a showy woman, tho' no great actress. She is the Polly Hart whom Churchill celebrates, & whom one of my knights (Sr. W. Draper) is supposed to have brought upon the stage.

"That nasty word *ennui*, which your Lordship & poor Mason are so fond of, I wish to see banished from both your dictionaries. It is a kind of voluntary torture which people are so good as to supply themselves with, for fear life should not be unhappy enough without it: catch every golden minute, & let a proper resignation support the rest.

"My best respects & compliments attend Lady Nuneham; & I have the honour to be,

"My Lord, . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, May 10th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,—That there is no real glory to be gained by *ennui* I will easily grant, but I fancy we feel a kind of visionary fame in the indulgence of it. Don't we imagine that we have a superior understanding & finer sensations than other people, and therefore resolutely determine not to be pleased with what engages the attention of the vulgar? In our good-natured moods we are, perhaps, so benevolent as to lament that Heaven has made us too perfect, & most heartily wish that we had coarser organs, & could condescend to be entertained, & to entertain. This, you perceive, is absolute affectation.

"As to that honest *ennui* which is a bodily distemper, nothing but some continual pursuit or other, with air & moderate exercise, can get the better of it; no man of business ever had it, no sportsman, but at certain seasons, & the labouring clown never heard of it at all; it is merely another name for the spleen. Your Lordship has an advantage which thousands want—a power of self-amusement, & if you would force yourself to mix in active life you would find even that power increased; I do not mean gay life, polite life, for that, perhaps, is the source of half the *ennui* of the nation; but useful life, such as man is born to, & which persons of your Lordship's station can do most good in. Be a statesman; be a justice of

peace; be a farmer; be anything which can promote public good, & you are sure of your reward, private happiness. I am sorry you persist in your resolution of going out of Parliament, & it is owing to my concern on that account that you are troubled with all this elaborate common-place, which is true, tho' it wants novelty. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, May 23rd*, 1767.

"MY LORD,—Lord Villiers tells me that his eyes are much better, & desires me to make his acknowledgements to your Lordship for your very kind anxiety about them. He seems wonderfully busy about the S^{t}. Albans' election, which I am glad of, for to have something always to do is the best receipt both for acquiring & preserving health. I wish your Lordship had some such affair on your hands, & was eager in the pursuit of it; it would be an excellent antidote to all kinds of Rousseauism. I find that excentric genius has now ran away from M^{r}. Davenport, written a letter to the Chancellor for protection, & received an answer to assure him that this was a country of freedom, & that he might either leave it or stay in it, just as he pleased, without molestation. How restless his vanity makes him, & to what a degree of madness he carries it. Has your Lordship no cottage at Nuneham for his reception? You might possibly, by your attentions, keep him there three weeks if you would suffer him to be shewn occasionally to the Oxonians. I pity him exceedingly, for he is certainly mad, & should be taken care of under that predicament.

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"I find by the Dublin newspapers that they are now acting at Barry's house the *Roman Father, with considerable alterations*. Who has made them I cannot tell, but I should be very glad to see them. It is a new method of proceeding in an author's life-time, but, if they are tolerably done, might give one a hint. I shall endeavour to procure them; if they print them, which Garrick tells me they have or will, some friend in Ireland might smuggle one a copy. I am altering the fifth act myself, for Garrick to play it next winter. . . . .

"I am, my Lord, &c., &c.,

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, June 11th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,— . . . . The approach of summer (& we have had some days which squinted that way) will soon remove any weakness which may have arisen from the complaint, or from the discipline which attended the cure.

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"We hear nothing now of your friend Rousseau, so that I presume, as M^{rs}. Clive says, he is got

clear off. Let him have suffered what he will, the suspecting all mankind is not a proof of a sound mind, or a perfectly good heart. I admire his writings, tho' great part of them are paradoxical. I even admire his nicest feelings when they are within an hundred miles of the confines of common sense, & would have his utmost extravagancies treated with tenderness. He is become a froward child, & his understanding, tho' it may instruct others, seems of no use to himself in regard to practice. I have read Voltaire's verses as well as I could make them out; one might approve of them in a moderate writer, but Voltaire should be above writing moderate things.

"Garrick has sent me one copy of the 'R. Father,' as it is cut for the Irish stage, but I dare say it is not that which they are now acting. There is a great deal left out, but nothing added; the play itself was originally a skeleton, & those barbarous people have anatomized it over again; a kind of blunder, but not so good-natured a one as they are usually guilty of. My best respects, &c., attend Lady Nuneham and Lord Harcourt.

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"Your Lordship, in the meantime, is enjoying all the excellencies of Nuneham, & if you are not contented, & even delighted, with them I shall accuse you of Rousseauism. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 14th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I am glad you are to be at the Mayor's feast, I am glad you are to be at Abingdon races, I hope you have been at the Oxford Act[1], & I wish you were obliged to attend all the Corporation dinners and horse-coursing work of the ensuing summer. I know you would fancy you suffered a great deal of *ennui* in private, but in public (*entre nous*) your Lordship's—what shall I call it?—vanity, or a desire of pleasing, would not allow you to be disagreeable.

"To be the first person in the place; to be addressed with deference, & that deference mixed with a satisfaction at having the honour to address you at all; to see a glow of happiness playing on Mrs. Mayoress's plenteous countenance when she gives both hands in the conclusion of the minuet, or receives her fan from some humble relation who can never aspire to equal dignity; to have every black silk gown with pink ribbons in the whole assembly bursting with desire to be taken notice of; to have half a word give pleasure, and a familiar smile raise into rapture even a decayed beauty of three-score; to overhear whispers in every corner of the room of 'How charmingly he looks!' 'How delightfully he is dressed!' 'He is certainly the best bred man in England; you know,

Madam, I always said it:'—these, my Lord, are gratifications which will repay the little trouble you may be at to gain them; &, I dare say, could I be invisible in the Abingdon ball-room, I should certainly see you enjoying most of them. I shall ask Lady Nuneham, the next time I have the honour of seeing her, how you have behaved yourself? & shall expect a very favourable account. Lord Villiers will tell me what passes at St. Albans.

"We hear nothing more of your friend Rousseau, nor does any body seem to know where he is. Perhaps your Lordship can inform me; it would be very kind, for by that means I should appear knowing, as I am often asked after him in letters by persons who respect his talents. We were told in London that he began to think Mr. Hume not so much his enemy as he had once imagined him to be.....

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 8th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,— . . . . That the devout Gresset should entertain Monsr. Rousseau the great genius, I am not at all surprized; but that the humble, the philosophical, the contented Rousseau should so far get the better of his love of solitude, & contempt of the pomps & vanities of the world, as to admit of such public attentions, is, I own, amaz-

ing. Who knows but that a turtle dinner at the 'Crown & Anchor,' with the boys hollowing & throwing squibs in the street, & St. Clement's bells half-tearing down the steeple at his first arrival, might have made England tolerable to him? The Hermitage in Derbyshire was not at all the thing; noise, bustle, popularity, seem to have always been his objects under the appearance of shunning them. He would have rejected them here, I make no doubt, & have declaimed very finely against them, but he could not bear their not being offered to him. This is certainly the truth, my Lord, & you must not be angry; great minds have often great weaknesses: I give him honour where honour is due, & I am sorry for his failings.

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"I asked Lord Villiers about the civil speech he made to your Lordship, but he declares absolutely that, if it was so civil as your Lordship represents & took it to be, it must have been your Lordship's own, for that he never was designedly guilty of complimenting you in his life. As to that little spice of vanity which was hinted at in my last, both he & I agreed that you must allow your friends to be better acquainted with your accomplishments than you are yourself. Your Lordship may be blind to your own perfections, or disclaim what you please through modesty, but dear friends

will pry into latent excellencies, in order to have the pleasure of publishing them to the world. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 22nd*, 1767.

"MY LORD,—You complain of me as a correspondent without once considering that I have no green chintz night-gown with blue flowers, no French post-cap, nor am I permitted (notwithstanding the dignity of human nature) to sit whole hours by myself in my room without breeches. Besides, my poor philosophy goes no farther than an endeavour to make myself easy with men & things just as I find them, & to learn from a consciousness of my own failings to forgive those of others. The sublimer Rousseau, on the contrary, seems to have given your Lordship a receipt to be always uneasy, under the notion of dignity & independance. Man & not social is a contradiction; his only chance for happiness depends upon society.

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"Your Lordship had intermingled your civility to Lord Jersey so exceedingly with your abuse on his relations that I mentioned to him neither the one nor the other. I could not disentangle them, so that you may say obliging things in your next by way of excuse for not coming hither, without taking any notice that I had mentioned

the subject. I hardly know whether your dignity & independance can stoop to such artifice, but I know it is very harmless. I am much obliged to Lady Nuneham for her compliments, & beg mine may be made acceptable in return. I hope her Ladyship has escaped the contagion of Rousseauism; for myself I would rather have the influenza again, ten to one. When I say all this, your last letter gave both Lord Villiers & myself great entertainment. We did smile, as you supposed we would, at the exaggerated pictures you drew of your own mind & feelings, & saw you in all your dignity a perfect demigod in dishabille. You have probably long before this time descended from the clouds, & a mere mortal may venture to tell you that he is, ...

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 30th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,—I most sincerely congratulate you on the account you give of yourself in your letter of last night; but is it Rousseau who has taught you to feed the hungry & cloath the naked? I fancy you might have found a greater guide, whose example was purer, & whose precepts are conveyed in the shortest and clearest manner. This same philosophy has fairly duped you into being a Christian, & you are actually following the tenets of the Gospel without seeming to attend to it. Go on, & prosper!

"One piece of pride you have relapsed into, which I think it my duty to admonish you of. I remember the time when humility & Voltaire instructed you to always make use of the little i when you wrote about yourself, but through your whole last letter the great I stands as plain & conspicuous as the proudest of us all could have dared to have written it. This, my Lord, must be a voluntary wickedness, it cannot be a mistake so often repeated.

"I wish with all my heart the strictness of your present way of thinking had permitted you to have obliged your friends, & have gone to St. Albans. A little attention to Lord Spencer, & friendship to him & Lord Villiers, tho' crimes, might possibly have been venial ones. There was a time when you were an admirable canvasser, & who knows but you might have been able to put on that character once more for a few days. Besides, you would have had an opportunity of giving good advice to the constituents, & taking them to advantage too, for in their cups all men are honest. I expect your Lordship's next letter will be on the subject of plants, for I hear Rousseau's only study at present is Botany. Your cousin will be glad of that, & improve his gardens under your direction. I am to return compliments, &c., from him to Lady Nuneham & your Lordship, & to say how glad he should have been,

& how sorry he is. You did it admirably, fie upon you!

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"Am not I to congratulate your Lordship upon Lady Parmerston's marriage? The papers tell me I am, as well as to condole with you upon the loss of Monsr. de Guerchy. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Nov. 8th*, 1767.

"MY LORD,— . . . . The perils you went through in your journey to Derbyshire will make you unwilling to travel anywhere for the future; but what has your Lordship to do with anything but turnpike roads? Such a summer as the last has made every other road scarce passable. Even in this *fine open* country we can hardly get a mile from home, & the very park itself looks as if we were in Lincolnshire.

"Your most obliged & most obedient,

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, February 7th*, 1768.

"MY LORD,—Twice did I call at Cavendish-square to inform your Lordship of my intended flight to Bath, & twice was I disappointed. I am gotten hither, however, & find great benefit, as usual, from the waters. I am lodged in the market-place, have a spacious first-floor, and can chuse

my dinner from the windows of my best room, & the sauce to it from the gallery, which looks into the herb-market. How commodious! I have no more noise than I like, & a constant moving picture whenever I chuse to take notice of it; in short, I am in that best of situations, alone in a crowd. You will say, perhaps, it is a crowd of ragamuffins, what then? they wear the human face divine, & those of the fair sex, who attend with baskets, are as busy & as industrious as the men.

"The sight of so much raw meat, & bleeding salmon so delightfully handled, will, I hope, cure my squeamish stomach of its delicacy. I think I could almost skin a rabbit myself already; what I may arrive at in a fortnight more it is impossible for me to guess. The ball rooms (another kind of shambles) I have not yet entered; the playhouses I have attended the only two nights they have played since I was here.

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"The news here is that Lord Harcourt is married, or will certainly be married in a few days, to Mrs. Dashwood. I am thought rather cautious and reserved in not declaring that I know it for a fact. What would you have me say? My best respects always attend Lady Nuneham, & I have the honour to be, ...

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, June 23rd*, 1768.

"AND so, my Lord, you are already tired of Nuneham, because it is the country? fie upon you! what would you have done if you had been a Mahometan, & obliged, after death, to go to Paradise for ever? you richly deserve it. I suppose your objection of adding a strawberry-leaf to your coronet is for fear it should look a little too like a garden; fie upon you again. However, I will give you some comfort before I conclude my answer to the splenatic part of your letter, which is this, that you will probably have the satisfaction of lessening your estate, but never be wicked enough to add one single dirty acre to it. Your ancestors are unluckily out of your reach, but you may make some of their posterity run naked about the woods, & eat acorns for subsistence. That, your Lordship sees, will be reducing them to a natural state, as far as is in your power, & the pleasing prospect of it may play about your heart, even amidst the pomp and vanity of your present enjoyments.

"I shall certainly pay you a visit at Astrop, which I take to be a very tolerable place. All the *gentry* of our part of the county frequent it very much, & talk of the public breakfasts, & the morning balls, as things of some consequence. Besides, if I remember, it is not at all like the country; at least, I am sure it has not the small-

est resemblance of Nuneham, except that Mr. Wills's canal is water, & so is the Thames. I beg no reflections upon Lady Say; your great grandfather would not have treated her so rudely. Lord Say, likewise, was my school-fellow, & drew all his knowledge from the same fountain of literature. He talks classical learning to me every time I meet with him. You will be very happy in their acquaintance, though they are not, in every respect, in a state of nature. She would make a sweet figure in the woods, he would only look like a faun.

"After all this nonsense I will tell your Lordship a serious truth: Polly Smelt is going to be married immediately, & not to our friend.

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"Lady Nuneham does me honour in her reproach, but I thought I *was* acquainted with her Ladyship as much as I can possibly be acquainted with a fine young lady whom I see so seldom. It requires a great deal more intercourse before I can be half so rude to her as I am to your Lordship; but I will endeavour to mend. In the meantime her Ladyship will, I hope, accept of my respects & compliments till I am on a proper footing to treat her with neither.

"I find Lord Harcourt's French expedition is delayed by the Colonel's being detained in Ireland. I wish your Lordship joy of your horse; use it very

often, keep it dull, & don't let your grooms teach it tricks. I hope you have your French great coat still to ride in, as well as your French post-cap *à la* Chudleigh. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 7th*, 1768.

"MY ——,—You see how well I obey your —— ship's commands. I will say no more on that head than what I would tell Rousseau to his face,—

> "Honour & shame from no condition rise;
> Act well your part, there all the honour lies.

"If you had had the happiness of being born a scavenger you could have been no more than a good man at best, & that you may be, if you please, in your present humiliating situation. I say nothing of larger duties & wider spheres, because they are the cant of depravity; but if one has those wretched things belonging to one, why one must make the best of them.

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"The Laurustinus, the Arbutus, the Bays, & some of the Laurels, are just as much destroyed here as those on the terrace at Nuneham; everything else is very flourishing. I am more natural than you are, for I find I love the country very much, & have not even a thought that straggles

to London, tho' it rains at this instant abominably. O Nature, Nature! as Mrs. Clive says in the play. . . .

"I have the ——— to be,
"My ——
"Your ——ship's most —— &
"most ————————
"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 4th*, 1768.

"MY LORD,— . . . . Has your Lordship heard anything of Mason? I see they have put his epitaph in the newspaper, & that he has not altered the two exceptionable lines: the lover prevailed over the critic. I should have preferred, which I told your Lordship at Nuneham, the plainness of the following lines:—

"Bid her be chaste, be innocent like thee;
Bid her in duty's sphere as meekly move;
Bid her, tho' fair, from vanity be free,
Be firm in friendship, & be fond in love.

"But perhaps I am as partial to my alteration as he is to his original stanza. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 23rd*, 1768.

"MY LORD,— . . . . How terribly you complain of what is the best thing imaginable in the country, a house full of company. It is the only thing which gives one time to one's self, & makes everybody easy. It does not signify what the company consists of; a little general civility makes the whole sociable, & you may pick out the parts as you please for private amusement. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, March 28th*, 1769.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I congratulate your Lordship that, amidst all your disgusts at the vices of the rest of the world, you should have been so happy as to find out one immaculate friend, the Duchess of Kingston! I really think her myself a perfect character, & am glad Lord Bristol had a favour to shew as well as your Lordship. The Court, they tell me, was very full, & so were the streets. They could not all go to laugh & sneer, some, I dare say, shook their heads very sincerely. Now you are angry, & therefore I change the subject. My end is answered; a little warmth now & then is good for your constitution. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bath, Aug. 3rd*, 1769.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I came to Bath with Lord Jersey for a fortnight, & three weeks of that fortnight have very near expired, & I hear nothing of our return to Middleton, but I presume I shall in a few days.

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"You are hasty in your judgement concerning Gray's Ode. He is accused of flattery, I think he has dextrously avoided it; he could not possibly have said less out of gratitude; a friend of ours said a great deal more when he had no obligations. Surely the introducing all those founders & foundresses of colleges in Cambridge, who may be called the D. of Grafton's relations, was rather happy. You must not (like a critic in the newspaper whom I have laughed at) be ignorant who Anjou's heroine & the paler rose were. As to Betty Clare, I am bound to defend her: she founded the college I belonged to; & poor Chatillon, the Countess of Pembroke, foundress of Gray's own college, must be pitied by every one. She was a near relation of Edward the Third's, of the family of Blois, daughter of Guy de Chatillon, Count de St. Pauly, third wife to Aymer de Valences, Earl of Pembroke, who was killed in a tilting match the very morning of his marriage. You see I go to genealogy to bring you over. I say nothing of old Margaret, Henry the Seventh's

mother, tho' she was both a Plantagenet and a Tudor, because I am uncertain whether your politicks attach you most to the red or white rose of those times: old Margaret was blood-red; I should think you are for one *paler rose*, which poor lady (whom Gray mentions before) you have seen Mrs. Pritchard act very often, & take leave of her children most pathetically. The bold Margaret of Anjou you have only seen represented by Mrs. Yates, & you are partial. *Old* Margaret, the Countess of Richmond, has, I believe, never been upon the stage. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, Aug. 30th*, 1769.

"MY LORD,—I am in a good deal of confusion & hurry, but cannot help stealing a moment to acquaint your Lordship with the melancholy event of the death of Lord Jersey. The present Lord desires his love to you, but is too much embarrassed at this time to be able to write even a line to you himself. I came from Bath yesterday, where I went thro' a scene of three days which made me nervous, & undid almost all the waters had done for me. I hope we shall get out of Town to Middleton to-morrow, & have a few days' rest. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Grosvenor-square, Sept.* 10*th*, 1769.

"MY LORD,— . . . . I shall probably be at Middleton some time in this week to inspect letters & papers; an office Mr. Vernon & myself are desired to undertake, tho' the office itself is not a pleasant one.

"Everything upon earth is left to the present Lord, but with restrictions which he did not deserve, but not more than we expected. But these things I must talk over with you. I want to know when it will be agreable to you for me to spend a few days with you at Nuneham, or whether it will be so at all any time before the winter? I say this with a *proviso* that Lord Jersey does not want me.

"I have been so many years shut out from every kind of connection but one, that I am exceedingly awkward, & do not know how to behave in my present situation. I find myself so totally at home both here & at Middleton that they seem new places to me; but this is *entre nous*. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Briton Ferry, Oct.* 12*th*, 1769.

"MY LORD,—I am much obliged by your very kind & entertaining letter; it is so like the conversation she & you occasionally have together, when wit is tinctured with a little lively malice,

that I could not help shewing it to Mrs. Vernon. . . . .

"Your Lordship's, &c.,
"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, June* 25*th*, 1770.

"MY LORD,—You are possibly by this time quite tired with finding fault with Nuneham, & abusing Nature for having scattered her wood, & her lawn, & (fie upon her) her water, in such a manner as she has done about you. The rooms, too, should have been all looking-glass, & not have had their walls defiled with blotches of pictures upon the damask. Domenichino may do very well in a *boudoir*, or Ruisdale[k] in a water-closet; but nothing beyond a *dessus des portes* should enter into an apartment of real elegance. The prints, too, in your dressing-room do not hang right, tho' you have altered them three or four times already; several of them ought to be in oval frames, but how can that be done in the country? Nothing can be done in the country. Curse the country! &c., &c.

"If this be your Lordship's state of mind at present, a letter from London may not be amiss, tho' I would have you take notice that I, tho' not the mover, begin the correspondence.

"Your friend Lady Jersey has wanted a great

[k] Ruysdaal.

deal of scolding since you left Town; she must needs be a driver as well as a rider. The horses ran away with her in one of the little chaises at Wimbledon, & she was obliged to throw herself out of it to avoid being drowned. This fright has, I hope, cured her; I wish she would learn prudence of Lady Nuneham.

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"They are to be very musical this summer, two pianofortès & an harpsicord have loaded one waggon already; we likewise are to be very musical at Middleton. You see, therefore, how necessary it is for me to attend the Opera. I wish I had thought of it sooner; I have almost forgotten what I learned in Italy, & my voice is not half so good as it was then. I have altered, however, already an old song of mine upon Music & Beauty, & have sent it to a lady. I will fill up the remainder of this paper with it, but you must not let it be copied:—

"Of Music & of Beauty's power
I doubted much, & doubted long;
The fairest face, a gaudy flower,
An empty sound, the sweetest song.

"But when her voice Clarinda rais'd,
And sang so sweet, & smiled so gay,
At once I listen'd, & I gaz'd,
And heard, & look'd my soul away.

"To her, of all his beauteous train,
This wond'rous power had love assign'd,
A double conquest to obtain,
And cure at once the deaf & blind.—*Da Capo.*

"Respects, compliments, &c.,
"W. W."

"*Mount-street, June 30th*, 1770.

"MY LORD,—Tho' I have but this instant received your Lordship's very entertaining, tho' satirical, letter (which you know I hate), I must say a word or two immediately. The devil is in me, you will say, for writing, but it is merely to inform you that I cannot leave London till Wednesday; I will take my chance of calling at Nuneham. If you should be gone to Blenheim, why I must stay all night till you come home; & if you should not, why I may probably stay all night likewise; but I shall undoubtedly dine early, on cold meat, at Henley. I never eat so well as at an inn, in that *èn passant* manner, as Mason would say; I have there no *ennui.*

"At the same time with your Lordship's letter I receive one from Lord Jersey. *He* has forgot something, & *she* has forgot something, & I am to send *this*, & to bring *that:* Lord bless them, they are both very young, but they are absolute turtles at present. I send the plan of the skittle-ground by this very post.

"I was with Miss Fauquier yesterday morning, who gives a good account of you, I mean of your Lordship, for Lady Nuneham's propriety of behaviour I never doubt. I hope I shall find Dr. Hoare with you, for, as I have been a university man, I long to get to the bottom of that interesting affair with regard to round & square caps, tippets, & copes, things which *old* Homer, *old* Horace, never dreamed of, tho' the former knew a good deal of black puddings & sausages. You have got into an idle way of ridicule, & laugh at serious things; I am sorry for you, I wish, as you seem to desire, that he would flatter you as I do. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 23rd*, 1770.

"MY LORD,— . . . . We wanted you all very much on Monday last at Ditchley, where the maid who shewed the house in the absence of the housekeeper, had the tone & manner of the man who shews the tombs. Lady Jersey, fie upon her, began giggling as soon as the poor girl spoke, & put her quite out of her narration. She recovered, however, pretty well, & we got through Sr. Charles Rubens's wife, the picture that came from Pontius, & a few others, tolerably, but when we came to a ceiling which the

young woman assured us was *paper missheé*, I was obliged to leave the room, because I would not be a witness of so much ill-behaviour; in short her Ladyship must never go to Dr. Bacon's. At Lord Shrewsbury's she behaved better, which, by the by, is a very fine place, & I am glad I have seen it. There is a good deal of Miss Sheè's paper there, but her name was not mentioned. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Dec. 20th*, 1770.

* * * * * *

POLITICS.

"Lord Weymouth has certainly resigned (tho' not till yesterday morning). Lord Sandwich succeeds him, & Mr. Thynne has kissed hands for Postmaster-General. The resignation is merely occasioned by a difference of opinion with regard to measures which he was to execute & be answerable for without approving them. What! (I hear your Lordship say, whilst Miss Fauquier applauds, & Lady Nuneham only smiles at you both,) What! are there measures which Lord W. would not undertake? & is Lord Sandwich to be called in to do their dirty work for them? I wish Mr. Sawbridge was made Secretary of State, who has a proper head for business, & Mrs. Macaulay Post-

mistress, for then one might write treason in letters all over England, & not be impertinently called to an account for it. I could say a great deal more of politics, but I will die before I will betray the good cause.

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"Lord Weymouth neither is Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, nor ever thought of it. I fancy the present one must try to extricate himself out of the difficulties he has brought himself into."

"*Mount-street, Dec. 22nd*, 1770.

"..... I PLAGUED you so much with politics in my last (tho' all well meant, as I dare say Miss Fauquier will agree with me) that I will not even mention the duel, nor shew how the Minden affair, at so many years' distance, has been got the better of by the drawing of a trigger. The Grecians & Romans your Lordship has been reading of so much of late did not deal in duels; they murdered & assassinated heroically, but they thought exposing themselves to any danger in defence of their country, a sober, serious, honourable thing, sage, simple, *et honnête*....."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 5th*, 1771.

"MY LORD,— .... How delightfully philosophical was your Lordship in your last letter! how

fond of solitude, & how *very, very* kind to the human species! indeed I might plead that as one reason why I did not write sooner, for you know I am always tender of breaking in upon your meditations. By this time you have probably had interruption enough, & a letter, w^ch^ may be torn before it is half read, may be less teizing than a flow of conversation w^ch^ your extreme complaisance always obliges you to listen to...."

"*Mount-street, Oct. 26th*, 1771.

"..... AS to news, Miss Grenville is certainly to be married to S^r^. Watkin Williams Wynne. She made her conquest in Wales, & everything is agreed upon. Lord & Lady Temple, & Miss Stapylton, concurring. This is what is called a great match, &, I hope, will be a happy one.

* * * * * *

"Your old woman still was in my head, but in a very different style from anything you have yet received, &, as it is not written down, may possibly never be finished.....

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"..... THE Farming Woods party, you know, was put off on account of Lord Spencer's gout, but a new party for Althorpe sprung out of its ashes, which likewise is hitherto prevented by a return

of gout, & the Middleton Lord & Lady have been Adam & Eveing it for above a fortnight without my being able to go to them. If they are to do the same a fortnight longer, & I have desired categorical answers, I shall probably go to Middleton as soon as Mr. Wright leaves Town, & from thence for three weeks to Bath, if I find I cannot do without it. If Bath should not be necessary, when I leave Middleton I shall come directly to Nuneham, & stay with you 'till you tell me it is proper I should depart; nay, if I do go to Bath, I will still spend a fortnight at least with you before you go to Town.

"As to the inscription, I am answered by what your Lordship says. I have only some snatches of it in my head, & want a little conversation with you before I can bring it into form, because I would have it exactly what you yourself would wish. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, Nov. 11th*, 1771.

". . . . . I DARE say you are impatient about the inscription for the Urn[1], & will therefore ask your opinion whether I have hit your meaning. After saying you have placed the funeral urn in a gay scene, I give these reasons for it.

[1] Placed in the garden at Nuneham to the memory of Lady Palmerston.

"*Here* shall our ling'ring footsteps oft be found;
This is *her* shrine, & consecrates the ground:
Here living sweets around her altar rise,
And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.
Here, too, the thoughtless & the young may tread,
Who shun the drearier mansions of the dead,—
May *here* be taught what worth the world has known;
Her wit, her sense, her virtues, were her own;
To her peculiar;—— & for ever lost
To those who knew, & therefore lov'd her most!

"O, if kind pity steal on Virtue's eye,
Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh;
From soft humanity's ingenuous flame
Some wish may rise to emulate *her* fame.
May some faint image of *her* worth restore,
When those who now lament her are no more.

"You see I go upon conjecture of your intention, & you must set me right if I err. A short prose inscription, *to the memory*, &c., will be a necessary introduction. Only tell me your own wishes, & I will endeavour to conform to them.

"I give you joy on the Dss. of Cumberland. Why do they run away to France? It has occasioned great disturbance both at St. James's & Carlton House; & how it will end I cannot well conceive. The Dss. of Gloucester must be acknowledged too. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, June 12th*, 1772.

"YOUR Lordship seems to have given me up as a correspondent, yet, notwithstanding the decorum of the first mover, &c., I cannot refrain from condoling with your Lordship on the two melancholy events of Ireland and the laundry[m]. The first you will bear as a philosopher, & the second has some degree of merriment attending it. The ladies of the washing-tub will certainly consider your garden as their drying-ground, & will frequently chant out to the tune of Owen Tudor,—

"'Our Lines shall grace Laburnums,
Since such our masters will it.
And our smaller things
Shall dangle on strings
From Tuberose tops & Lillies;'

& perhaps add to it, with a still farther regard to their profession,—

"'No more in our chests of linen
Shall Lavender reign despotic,
We'll cull our flowers
From yonder bowers,
And our smocks shall smell exotic.'

"How pleased you will be to hear them! especially if they have tolerable voices, for you love music.

[m] This alludes to the dislike which Lord Nuneham had of going to Ireland, where his father, Lord Harcourt, was Lord Lieutenant; and to his having built a laundry adjoining the flower-garden.

"I intend to do myself the honour of hearing & seeing your distresses in the middle of next week, in my way to Middleton. Wednesday is the day I propose to leave London, if my knights will permit it, & I shall probably have the honour of lying that night at Nuneham; if anything prevents it you shall hear from me again.

"The reports in Town are, that Lord Harcourt has desired S[r]. George Macartney should continue Secretary (very courtly & obliging). Others say that Jenkinson is to be the person, & that he has demurred a little, but consented. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Stowe, July 11th*, 1772.

"I HOPE neither of your Lordship's two visits will happen on next Wednesday, as I propose having the honour of dining with you that day, certainly being with you in the evening. I am at present at Stowe, & am to sup in the illuminated grotto; Lord & Lady Coventry, Lord & Lady Jersey, & Prince Poniatowski are here. You see, my punctilio, I will not venture to come to you without notice, tho' it be ever so short a one. There's good breeding!

"I intend passing a few days with Quiet and her sister[n] whilst the boistrous are revelling at

[n] Alluding to some lines of Marvel, on a bench in the grounds at Nuneham.

Wakefield and Barford. Your not coming to Middleton is laid entirely upon me, for mentioning company & the natives in my letters; so take notice, for the future I shall never say anything on that head, I shall confine myself entirely to that pleasing subject, myself.

"My best respects, &c., always attend Lady Nuneham."

"*Middleton Park, July*, 1772.

"... So kind have the natives been that this is the first day I have dined with Lord and Lady Jersey alone. They are both perfectly well, & very much employed about making a dog-kennel, & digging earths to invite foxes to make Middleton their abode. Some disturbances will probably attend their labours in the long run, & I may have new Chevy Chases to write in the beginning of the winter. Lady Jersey is an arrant little tigress upon the subject, & even trimmings & contreband caps are but little thought of.

"I ride every morning, & have an excellent horse; I even galloped to-day, in order to be pretty company.

"Why will Lord & Lady Nuneham not come to Middleton? is a question I have put to me every day. What answer shall I give them?

"I saw a very fine ivy-leaved geranium at Lady Dashwood's on Sunday last. I think your

Lordship likewise has one,—at least I declared you had, because I would not let it be supposed that your garden was not furnished with everything. An all-spice plant is also there in full blow, as is ours at Middleton, but I cannot praise the beauty of either of them: it is a brown pompadour-coloured flower like a columbine. This garden is not in high bloom, but there is one shrub I never saw before, which is a Coronilla *with purple flowers*. Your Coronillas, & those which are here besides, have yellow flowers, like their cousin the Scorpion Senna. Our Pyreconthas are wonderfully full of blossoms.

"I have this evening read Chambers's book on gardening quite through; it seems to be three blue beans in a blue bladder, &c. He must be a charming coxcomb upon the whole....

"W. WHITEHEAD.

"P.S. I have heard such lectures lately from adepts in the science that I could write a fox-hunter's part in a comedy."

"*Middleton Park, August* 15*th*, 1772.

"..... THE family here, & the family at Stowe, are much out of humour with you, & call you odd, capricious, whimsical, & a thousand hard names which I do not chuse to repeat. All I can say in your defence (& your Lordship knows I defend very well) has but little effect. Lady Nuneham

they all speak well of, and indeed *con amore:* they are sure she was not the least in fault; her real good nature and amiable disposition would have put itself to any inconvenience rather than have deprived others of the happiness of her company. But for her Lord——"

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 30th*, 1772.

"....SINCE my return to Middleton I have seen Voltaire's new verses *Súr les Systémes*. The scheme might have been a good one if he had treated it more elaborately and more seriously, & had condescended to have been less familiar with the Deity; as it is, it did not answer my expectations. It is said in Scripture that in the latter days there shall be no faith upon earth; Monsr. Voltaire seems to have the misfortune to be the great Apostle of that *no faith*.

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 19th*, 1773.

"...NOTWITHSTANDING the badness of the day I fulfill my promise, & with infinite pleasure inform Lord and Lady Nuneham that Lady Jersey was safely delivered of a *son* this morning, a little before three o'clock. Her Ladyship & *Lord Villiers* are, according to the phrase, as well as can be expected. Lord Jersey, I believe, writes himself.

"Lady Charlotte Villiers (whose nose, poor thing, did not want to be put out of joint) hopes Lady Nuneham will still retain some degree of affection for her."

"*Mount-street, Oct. 16th*, 1773.

"....NOW, then, you are on Irish ground, under the protection of St. Patrick, & have left all venemous creatures with poor us in England to goad & sting us 'till your return; I dare say, whatever apprehensions of novelty you carried with you, you will find much amusement & enjoyment amongst a good-natured people. Politicks, to be sure, are the Devil, but I hope even the sting of that great metaphorical serpent may, by proper means, be rendered pointless.

* * * * * *

"It has been the study of my life, however, to learn to be able to live alone; & I find the use of that study still more & more as that life advances. I do not mean that I was ever an enemy to society. Some society I always did, & always shall, love extremely; but what I guarded against was the making the mere commerce of the world absolutely necessary to me; *en passant* 'tis agreable enough, & I can make it amusing.

"I have no news to tell you. You have doubtless heard the whole history of the D. of Kingston's will. Your friend the Duchess has now an

opportunity of marrying A. H. in the face of the world, tho' I rather think she will retire to Dresden to her dear Electress, & die a Catholic.

* * * * * *

"Lady Charlotte Edwyn is very averse to Miss Keck's marriage with Lord Hereford. When the young lady asked the Queen's consent to marry, her Majesty graciously told her that her approbation would certainly attend everything that could make Miss K. happy, but she was sorry to find that what she mentioned was not quite agreable to some of Miss K.'s best friends, & wished it was in her power to bring about a reconciliation. 'May I tell my aunt what your Majesty is graciously pleased to say?' 'To be sure, Miss K., if it will be of any service to you.' Upon this she immediately carried to her aunt the Queen's *commands* to be reconciled. This roused the Hamilton blood, & the ferment is not yet allayed. This piece of intelligence is for Lady Nuneham, tho' probably she may have heard it before.

"There is a rumour that somebody of the Pierpont family lays in a claim of male heirship, & that it may cause a dispute with her Grace. It is said to be a servant of Lord Guernsey's, or a father of that servant; this, too, may be a lie. I hope everything goes smoothly in Ireland, &

that his Excellency meets with as little trouble as possible. . . . .

"Adieu, my dear Lord,
"W. W."

"*Bath, Nov. 15th*, 1773.

". . . . I SAW the Garrick of Bath last night in Othello, for the first time, indifferent enough in conscience, very like coachey & cookey in high life below stairs. He seems to have studied the Negro language amongst the black servants at Bristol, & is full as vulgar. . . . .

"Addio,
"W. W."

"*Bath, Dec. 6th*, 1773.

"I WAS just going to write to your Lordship when I had the pleasure of your letter, for the distance we are at, attended likewise with winds & tides, will not admit of a regular question & answer correspondence.

"I am still at Bath, tho' my month is just out, & shall, I believe, make it a six weeks' campaign. The manner in which I live in this place (for I would not live an absolute Bath life on any consideration) is very agreable to me, & the waters are always of service. If propriety & convenience would admit, I should not dislike staying here the whole winter, &, perhaps, every winter, if I

could make it my home, & have my books & everything about me.

* * * * * *

"The Duchess of Kingston is determined Bath shall not leave off talking of her; she is gone abroad, but has just sent hither to Hoare the painter to draw a full-length picture of her in weeds, with her dear Duke standing by her. There is already at Hoare's a full-length picture of her Grace in coronation-robes, with the Duke, in miniature, in one corner of it.

* * * * * *

"I am glad to find Lady Nuneham attends Parliament. I know she can carry a bill through the House of Commons in England, & who knows what she may effect in her present situation in Ireland. . . . .

"Adieu, my Lord,
"W. W."

"*Mount-street, Dec. 24th*, 1773.

". . . I WANT your Lordship very much in London to consult about an enamel'd case for Miss Sanderson's watch. Their own design was an Apollo, a Minerva, & God knows who, but the enamel was ruined by the fire. They now desire I would superintend it, & propose what alterations I chuse. A finely-executed naked Venus was proposed by the painter, but rejected with disdain; the artificer is Parker, in Panton-street, but I have not yet called, nor shall be able now till I return from the Grove. The Minerva, I apprehend, must be there, but I shall judge better when I have seen the design: I am determined to admit of no nudities. What think you of *Old Time* presenting a wreath of flowers to *Youth*, whilst she is taking him by the forelock? It is for a watch, you know, & for a young lady.

"I have made two most horrible blots, but it is impossible to write *nothing* over twice, & therefore your Lordship must excuse it. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, Grosvenor-square, Jan. 18th*, 1774.

". . . THE Jersey family is now settled in Town, the little boy christened for the second time, & her Ladyship looking very handsome, & beginning her gambols. I dined with them yesterday at Lord Edgecombe's.

* * * * * *

"Lady Jersey desires me to tell Lady Nuneham that she meant to have written to her yesterday, but a birthday is so perplexing a thing, when one's trimming is not quite ready, that it was impossible to attend to anything else. She is to-day all over ducks' feathers, green and gold, faintly shin-

ing upon red silk. I told her she seemed to me in second mourning, but it is called vastly elegant, & indeed the stomacher, robings, &c., with diamonds upon them, looked extremely well. The flounces on the petticoat had only the appearance of dyed ermine. Her head, however, was extremely well drest, & I was treated with contempt for my occasional censures upon other parts. None of these fancy-dresses ever look new to me; I like a fine shining silk that declares to every body it is just come fresh from Spitalfields; has never tasted the taint of salt water, or even been soiled in a Custom-house. Lady Nuneham will forgive me.

* * * * * *

"Miss Sanderson's watch is still in debate; the pictures are too small for telling an allegorical story. I have taken the liberty, however, of adding an olive branch to Minerva, alluding to the old story:—

"'Thus Pallas with her javelin smote the ground,
And peaceful olives flourish'd from the wound.'

"I could not find a Hebe to my fancy, & have therefore given them a Herculaneum figure for the middle compartment.

"Had my idle idea taken place, I should certainly have written verses on the occasion, which, by the by, Miss Sanderson must not have seen.

I think *Time* might naturally have said, whilst she was *pat*ting his forelock,—

"'In my situation some gods would grow fond,
But I'm old, & resign'd to my fate;
Yet stretch, my dear Hebe, one finger beyond,
And, prithee now, scratch my bald pate.'

* * * * * *

"Lord Chesterfield's letters, I am told, will not do him any credit with thinking people; they are not yet published. The present Lord Lyttelton, too, has given his cousin, Captain Ascough, a great collection of his father's juvenile trifles, which, I hear, had better be suppressed. I have seen none of them; Lord Chesterfield should have died a great nominal wit, & nothing should be published of Lord Lyttelton but what is perfect & correct. But needy people will sell, & booksellers will buy, any remains of celebrated characters. We shall see what they are when they come forth. . . . ."

"*Mount-street, Feb. 9th*, 1774.

". . . IT is certainly true that Dr. Dod attempted to bribe Lady Apsley to get the living of St. George's for him from the Chancellor. He is already struck off the Chaplains' list, & another appointed in his place; so abhorrent is the Court of all Simoniacal affairs. . . . ."

"*Mount-street, Feb. 23rd*, 1774.

"... THE postcript to the epistle to Sir W. Chambers is certainly by the same hand as the former. The subject does not admit of such variety of fancy as the last, but there are excellent ironical impertinent strokes in it; & it ought to be considered as a postcript merely. It is, in its way, just as well written.

"Your other correspondents must send you accounts of the House of Commons, & Charles Fox, & Parson Horne, &c., for I will not, at this distance, retail either politicks or scandal. You have, I dare say, enough of both on your side the water.

* * * * * *

"Lady Jersey is going to-night to a ball at Lord Gordmanstown's, but it is the etiquette not to be over drest any more than a proper regard to one's person requires. All the *bon ton* go to it, but it is, nevertheless, to be treated with a kind of *nonchalance:* this, among inferior beings, would be translated *impertinence;* but I bow with reverence to the resolutions of supreme authority...

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, March 26th*, 1774.

"... J'AI vu le chateau de Bingley. If you have bought it, Helas! —— if not, hola! —— it is the strangest & least habitable house of any I ever saw.

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"The Memoirs of Mr. Gray will probably make their appearance in May next.

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"The Jersey family are on the brink of a resolution to inoculate their two girls. The lady of that house has raked herself into being very thin, & not at all well, but still goes on. The doctor & the dance succeed each other, for every body dances now, at every assembly, & every night. A royal christening, the opera, & Almacks afterwards, in one night, nothing but female delicacy could possibly undergo.

* * * * * *

"I have got thus far without once congratulating you on Lady Georgina Spencer's match[o]. Every body here seems delighted with it, & I hope he will deserve her. Lady Jersey & Lady Clermont are quite in their element; they are the projectors, buyers, & supervisors of all the wedding cloaths & trinkets.

"Miss Sanderson's watch is finished, & sent away without my seeing it.... "W. W."

"*Mount-street, April 23rd*, 1774.

"I WAS determined not to write to your Lordship till I had again seen Bingley House[p], with-

[o] She was daughter of Lord Spencer, and married the Duke of Devonshire.

[p] Afterwards called "Harcourt House," in Cavendish-square.

out the incumbrance of crowds & auctioneers. I had that satisfaction the other day, with Lord & Lady Jersey & Mr. Stonhewer only. I like it better, because I saw more rooms than I did before. The lower floor, with a good deal of trouble, & at a very great expense, may be made a very fine one, tho' there is no very striking room in it. Your gallery, with its closet & trap-door staircase, will want much alteration. Lady Nuneham will have two good rooms above stairs; the rest of the family must breathe as they can. The court has a bastile magnificence, & the garden may have its agremens for Filon, coquette, &c.; but I will dwell no longer on this subject, as, I dare say Lord Jersey has sent you his opinion much more explicitly.

"The young ladies in Grosvenor-square were this morning inoculated; I have not seen them, nor shall, I presume, till they are well. You are certainly right, I am in a monstrous fidget, but I conceal it admirably, & only teize myself at home. It will be a lying-in to me till it is over, for I am fond of them both; yet even that fondness I never dare shew, because I am said to spoil them.

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"Pray don't forget to be able to live alone. I live so much alone myself that I want somebody to keep me in countenance. Not that I

would advise the really doing it to your station & time of life, but the being able to do it can have no harm in it. You will hear so much of Lord Chesterfield's letters that I will say nothing of them; but when I see you, and have read them thoroughly, I will give you my opinion. Many parts of them which relate to people now living, & which contain very profligate advice to a son, should, undoubtedly, never have been printed. But I have seen them only by snatches; it is called, by some people, a perfect system of education. Dr. Johnson, I am told, in his coarse way, says, it is the morality of a common woman, with the breeding of a dancing-master. They seem well written as to stile; & I have read several very good letters. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, May 27th*, 1774.

"... MASON is here, & will, I hope, not have left us till you come. His Celestinette is the most agreable music I ever heard, & he is himself delightfully out of tune, & most entertainingly discontented; I have not seen him these three or four days, as he has been in a course of dowagers, but he returns to-night from that antiquated connection. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Birkin, July 1st*, 1774.

"... DO you know what is become of Mason? As to the Jerseys, I dare say you will inform me how their health goes on; I am very uneasy till she gets better. From your Lordship I shall have less flattering accounts than from herself, & less desponding ones than from Lord Jersey; she is an absolute martyr to *bon ton*. I need use no worse expression.

"What new additions are there to Lord Lyttleton's works, & what is Voltaire's *Taureau Blanc?* Consider I am two hundred miles from London, & am therefore privileged to ask questions. As a convincing proof that I am so far from the metropolis, there is a young woman to do pennance in the church next Sunday; barbarous & Gothic! It is only her second offence. In London they err seventy & seven times, & are forgiven. The church-wardens want to have her stand without shoes & stockings, & with her hair dishevelled, a perfect Jane Shore. To do them justice, however, it is not the crime she has committed which offends them so much, their principal complaint against her is the charge she brings upon the parish; her Christian name is *Eleanora*. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Birkin, July 31st*, 1774.

"... LADY JERSEY is now, I presume, under your care & directions, & you must, as her host, 'against the murderer shut the door, nor hold the knife yourself:' that is, in plain English, you must force her to be quiet, grow well whether she will or not, & not lead her into rakeries & vagaries. She may study botany with Walter Clarke in the flower-garden, but not scamper to balls & races; Lady Nuneham's *prudence* in such cases may be trusted to itself.

"I am still at Birkin, & likely to remain so some time longer, for Middleton, I find, will not be Middleton till the beginning of September; I am perfectly contented, or rather more than contented, where I am; it is so like the life I enjoyed in former days (the golden age of my youth) that I seem (like the Negroes after death) to be returned to my own country again. Not but that I hanker a little after my Oxfordshire friends, & heartily wish some of them capable of tasting the quiet pleasures I at present possess.

"My last sentence is prophetic, & the prophecy fulfilled, for I have this moment received a letter from Lady Jersey, in which she tells me she is making a herbal; dissecting flowers, gumming them on paper, drying plants entire, & doing everything that is mild & rural. If she had not mixed a little scandal upon her neighbours in her

innocent epistle, I should tremble for what the *bon ton* would think & say of her. That last happy foible secures her, & I am not under the least apprehension that either your Lordship or Miss Fauquier should cure her of it; I intend writing to her very soon, but I have not time this post.

"I am going to dine with Lady Ramsden, where I shall probably hear your poor friend the Duchess of Kingston rather roughly handelled. I am too tender-hearted myself to say anything to your Lordship on that subject. If you can purchase her picture at Mr. Hoare's, either in widow's weeds or coronation robes, it will be a curiosity.

"Is the poem on the *Fête Champêtre* good for anything? I see Almon has published two or three editions of it; not that I would encourage scandal. If it is panegyric & well written I will venture to read it.

"I long to see your flower-garden before it is altered; if I should not come time enough, I hope Lady Jersey will preserve part of it on gummed paper. Your Lordship will be so good, tho' I know you are sparing of that commodity, to lend her half-a-quarter of a sheet for that purpose.

"My love, & service, & good wishes, & best respects, & respectful compliments, attend you all.

"W. W.

"P.S. I have not time to say anything on the daring attempt to counterfeit his Majesty's image at Leicester House, but hope you have preserved some of the halfpence. Juvenal talks of brazen statues of ministers which were melted down into frying-pans, &c., but to form monarchs of such vile kitchen stuff makes one's hair stand on end; I am sure it shocks your Lordship & Miss F."

"*London*, 1774.

"I MUST just tell your Lordship that, after passing through the crowd at Maidenhead races, I got very safe to Town between two & three o'clock. I went unluckily (Miss Fauquier will say designedly) to dine at a tavern sacred to Percy & Clinton, where, to be sure, I heard noise enough. They are horribly forward on the poll; her Grace of Northumberland goes most condescendingly out of her sphere, shakes every basket-woman by the hand, & tells them, with a sigh, that she cannot, what she wishes to do, give them meat & drink in abundance; for that, in these new-fangled times, would be bribery & corruption. The voters of Westminster have rather taken offence at Wilkes's interfering in their election: 'Let him stick to his city of London, & not presume to dictate in Covent Garden; shall they be told who they are to chuse by aliens?' in short, we want Miss Fauquier's sixpence. I saw Lord

T. Clinton come into the tavern, & he looked very lively. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"HEBE, from thy cup divine,
Shed, O shed nectareous dews!
Here, o'er Nature's living shrine,
The immortal drops diffuse;
Here, while every bloom's display'd,
Shining fair in vernal pride,
Catch the colours e'er they fade,
And stop the green blood's ebbing tide,—
Till youth eternal, like thine own, prevail,
Safe from the night's damp wing, & day's insidious gale.

"Your Lordship wants inscriptions for Greek & Latin deities, & yet will not have recourse to the only languages which speak of them with propriety. I have therefore attempted the above.

"As to your Hercules, his last exploit was robbing an orchard, as the apples in his hand prove. If one did not hate far-fetched allusions, one might easily turn yours into the Hesperian garden.

"'Hesperian gardens true,
If true, here only.'—*Milton.*

"Then make him rest from his labours, &c., 'quaff immortality & joy' with his *Hebe.* But this would require a commentator to explain, & be nonsense at last.

"Horace says Faunus left his own Arcadia to

come & revel in his rural scenes at Lucretile. He might, with equal truth, come post from Lucretile to Nuneham, & still change for the better. But this, too, would be quaint & nonsensical. Inscriptions should be very apt, & very intelligible. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Aug.* 1774.

". . . . . Mr. WRIGHT left me last Wednesday morning, delighted with your Lordship's approbation of *Hebe*, because he was partial to it. He loves ideal nonsense, & pressed me very much about *Hercules* & *Faunus.* To oblige him I wrote a compliment to *Faunus*, or rather to *Nuneham*, which is not properly an inscription.

"Horace says, in his 17th Ode of the first book,—

"'Velox amœnum sæpe Lucretilem
Mutat Lycæo Faunus,' &c.

"I say, as you will see if you turn over,—

"Faunus would oft, as Horace sings,
Delighted with *his* rural seats,
Forsake Arcadia's groves & springs
For soft Lucretile's retreats.
'Twas beauty charm'd, what wonder then,
Enamour'd of a fairer scene,
The changeful god should change again,
And *here*, for ever, fix his reign.

"I could say something of *Hercules*, but I refer it to a future opportunity. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Nov.* 1774.

"To be beforehand with your Lordship. I have received your letter but a few minutes, & answer it directly,—nay, more, I send you a something about Hercules:—

"Crown'd with glory, crown'd with spoils,
Here forget thy labours past;
Here, Alcides, close thy toils,
Th' Hesperian Garden be the last!

"The vision of thy early youth
Perplex'd thy dazzled sight;
But *here*, in one exalted truth,
The goddesses unite;

"*Here*, Epicurus' self, reclin'd,
Might prove his doctrines true,
And in this calm retirement find
PLEASURE & VIRTUE too.

"I write this short scrap in a hurry, but must add a piece of news. There is a strong report to-day, &, I believe, a true one, that the great Mr. Bradshaw shot himself this morning at his house in Audley-street. He is certainly dead."

"*Mount-street, Dec. 3rd*, 1774.

". . . . . MASON wishes much to see your Lordship in Town. He wants somebody that has foibles, both to laugh with & to laugh at. He cannot, he says, now laugh at the Court, because they have made his friend, Dr. Hurd, Bishop of Litchfield, in Dr. North's room, who goes to Worcester. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Dec. 16th*, 1774.

". . . . . I WAS thus far in my letter last night when Lady Jersey sent for me to sit with her; & I read to her the greater part of the evening. The first news I heard this morning was that she was brought to bed at five o'clock of another little girl. She is just as well as usual, & the child too. It is a very little one. Lord Jersey went on Wednesday to Althorpe, not dreaming of this event till the middle of January. I find they sent an express to him immediately. Had I been there it should have been only a letter to write, as Dr. Ford & the nurse think everything safe on all sides.

* * * * * *

"Young Mr. Grenville is to be married with all expedition to Miss Nugent, Lord Clare's daughter. Mason is much pleased with the part of your Lordship's letter which regards him, & will be ready to laugh at a moment's warning; the sooner you

give him an opportunity the better. He says he longs to see you, & desires respectful compliments, & all that, with a grave face.

"Lady Nuneham will accept of my best & kindest wishes. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street.*

". . . . . I HAVE an invitation from a house near Westminster-bridge (if I chose to accept of it) to see the Regatta set out in all its splendor, which I fancy will be the best place, as Heaven knows what may happen before they reach Ranelagh, it may be Xerxes's fleet, or correspond with Gray's metaphorical description:—

"'Proudly riding o'er the azure realm,
&c., &c., &c., expects his evening prey.'

"I will tell you nothing of *Aurelia* till I bring it with me to Nuneham, where, as Chaucer says, we will *lift it to the bran*. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, June 15th*, 1775.

". . . . . YOU look with the eye of a fastidious master, & a critic; & if you are pleased, I make no doubt but that everything is superabundantly beautiful. I did not know that I had mentioned *or* for *and*, but I believe *or* is the best, for the

reason you give. Poor Hebe! don't let them strip her of the very little sense she has.

"I shall go on Saturday to the Grove, to meet Lord & Lady Jersey; a day or two's country air will do her Ladyship no harm, at least she will be safe from the midnight air of Vauxhall & Ranelagh. I have not seen either her or Lord Jersey since yesterday. They are at Wimbledon to-day, & to-morrow is a compleat something of breakfast & dinner at Petersham, & will probably conclude with a moonlight frolic upon the water, for fear they should not be quite tired to death.

"My best respects, &c., attend the whole Vernon family. I need not tell you what to say to Lady Nuneham. Her Ladyship's request with regard to any new edition of my poems shall certainly be complied with, but I fancy I may write another volume (if I am foolish enough) before any such phenomenon will appear. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 17th*, 1775.

"I THINK this letter to your Lordship will just hit the due medium between etiquette & ill-breeding. Etiquette would have written sooner, ill-breeding not at all, as I still propose being at Nuneham on Monday next. There's a handsome sentence to begin a letter with!

"Our stay at Oxford was about three hours; we

amused ourselves; I affronted nobody. I was a little afraid the latter might have happened, especially as Dr. Sibthorp shewed a letter on botany to Lady Jersey, which was written to his wife when she was Mrs. Mary Walter. He made many apologies to her Ladyship for the Deity being so often mentioned in it, but said at the same time it was excusable, as the writer, Dr. Dubois, was an old man, near his grave, & writing to his niece; all which seemed to imply (as the hostess says to Falstaff) that he hoped there was no occasion for Lady Jersey to think of God yet. We got to dinner at Middleton before the clock struck seven. The next day we dined at Blenheim, & on Saturday a party of country neighbours were so obliging as to dine here. This is all our little history since we left Nuneham. I begin to have my doubts of their Chatsworth party; the Duke & Duchess went to Calais with Lord & Lady Spencer, & as sudden a frolic may carry them to Spa or Paris.

"I want much to know how Lady Nuneham does, & whether your Lordship's fancies have yet produced a real illness; it will be horribly provoking if you should be disappointed both of a sore throat & a barking, for you have two strings to your bow, &c., besides having a quiver full of maladies to draw out occasionally.

"What is become of Mr. Hamilton? he has been hoped for here some days.

* * * * * *

"Why cannot your Lordship fly over to give your opinion of this flower-garden? It would do you good, & you might call upon your doctor & apothecary at Oxford in your way, which would be an an additional inducement. . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street.*

". . . . I STILL propose, with Mr. Hemet's permission, to be at Middleton on Saturday, but I cannot see my operator till to-morrow morning.

"I hope when I come to Nuneham next to speak tolerably plain, & to grin like Mrs. D., & to find your guineas turned into shillings.

"I saw an ode in the 'Gazetteer,' at one of the inns as I came along, which I had not time to read, but the subject suited my politics & patriotism exactly. It was a kind of triumph of the poor native Americans over both England & its colonies, & looking upon their present disturbances as Heaven's vengeance upon them for invading real genuine liberty. Your colonists are full as vicious as we are, &, I am afraid, horribly cruel & tyrannical where they dare be so.

"W. W."

"*September* 10*th*, 1775.

"I MUST first inform your Lordship that I found the roads, as one always does, much better than

they had been represented; & next, that I arrived safe at Middleton, & dined exactly at four o'clock. The Lady and the children I find perfectly well; the Lord is not quite so well as he should be, but has condescended to take a slight medicine, which I hope will remove his complaint. We dine to-day at Sr. Charles Cotterel's, & they will probably have finished all their visits before you come to Middleton; Lady Caroline Stuart is to be here to-morrow. If you should find any body here that you do not like, it will be owing to yourself; that is, to a want of punctuality, for they are warding off a certain family, that it may not interfere with you.

* * * * * *

"The airquake (for it was something of that kind) was felt, I find, at Abingdon & Oxford, as well as at Nuneham. At Middleton they had a noisy storm, but felt no shock.....

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Oct. 7th*, 1775.

"...YOUR friends here are just as you left them: the children perfectly well; the Lord, as usual, rises too early, the Lady too late; he takes too much exercise, & she too little. The place improves daily, & there is now a design in agitation of making the entrance to the park from the common in a different place, which will not be

a quarter of a mile out of the way, & have a wonderful effect; the park will look as big again, & almost everything that is tolerable in it be seen in the approach to the house. I will tell you very little of our visitors, because I do not love to be wicked upon paper; I was now & then almost angry, which is saying a great deal. The Stephens's left us on the Friday, & Lord Hyde & Co. on the Sunday, after your Lordship's departure. Since then we have been doing right things,—dining with our neighbours; & went one evening to play at cards & sup at Sr. Js. Dashwood's.

"You would have been delighted yesterday to have dined with us at North Aston, where I saw the prettiest little play-house that you can conceive, which holds about fourscore audience, & has everything in miniature, even to thunder & lightning, the prompter's bell, & the scene-shifter's whistle. The scenes are painted by young Mr. Bowles himself; are extremely well done, & there is a great variety of them. There is great decorum, I find, likewise observed by the actors. They are not allowed to crowd behind the scenes when they have no business there, but remain quietly in the Green-room till they are called out to their respective parts. The company is at present dispersed, but will rally again after some of them are married, some brought to bed, & some returned from their travels. I hope

we shall all be at Middleton some time or other to be able to see their performance.

* * * * * *

"Are not you sorry the Dss. of Devonshire has miscarried? She is very well, I hear, & heartily wish it may make her more prudent for the future. She has so much real & uncommon merit that she should not throw herself away.

"Adieu, mon cher Milord."

"*Birkin, July 26th*, 1776.

"YOUR Lordship's most obliging letter (a handsome beginning) gave me real satisfaction, but I was very near not receiving it at all. The boy who goes for letters unluckily cannot read, & your diminutive epistle had so scurvy an outside that he took for granted it must be a *billet doux* for one of the maids, & therefore slily delivered it to Betty. It did, however, afterwards find its way into the drawing-room, & I had many apologies from the poor boy the next morning.

* * * * * *

"Pray how is your cave lighted? for you speak of it as a large room, a little Ranalagh. I wish I could send you the hot day I am now enjoying, that Lady Nuneham & your Lordship might be perfectly sensible of its perfections. May the next three days be like the present; it is our only chance, for the dog-days begin on Tuesday.

"The companion you mention, I take for granted, was Lady C. Stuart. I wish she had called at a proper time to have seen your garden, not to say anything of the terrace & the pictures, tho' the last might possibly have given her most pleasure. Mason will be an abominable wretch if he does not call at Nuneham, & at Middleton too: but poets are odd creatures, & he one of the oddest.

* * * * * *

"I have had a fine acrostic of my name, title & everything, sent to me by a poetical barber at Pomfret, in which he calls me *Prince of Poets*. I presume he looks upon his Majesty as the king of poets, as well as head of the Church.

"If you can catch a leisure moment from her employment in the grotto, I beg your Lordship would make use of it in assuring Lady Nuneham of my most respectful & affectionate regards.

"N.B. The Pomfret barber is a most confounded patriot, & has satirized bribery & corruption at the Pomfret election without mercy, as his satires, which I have had the pleasure of perusing, specify.

"W. W."

"*Birkin, August 15th*, 1776.

".... I LIKE the account of your cave, but it seems grown into a temple. I hope it will be as

warm as you imagine, & that you will not be obliged to dedicate it to the goddess *Catch-cold*, the *Febris*, I presume, of the ancients.

"Your fête & pantomime entertainment must have alarmed the whole county, & put the Eclipse quite out of countenance; I long to see a 'Jackson's Journal' on the occasion. We shall have prints of it in some new edition of Plott's 'Oxfordshire,' as a rival to the Henrietta Waterworks. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, Oct. 29th*, 1776.

". . . . I FIND, instead of disliking it, you grow quite fond of Althorpe, & all the company there, & could scarce persuade yourself to leave Mr. Garrick, tho' you were engaged at Mason's. Perhaps you may have since that disliked Aston, & may now rather chuse to stay at Mr. Anson's than come to London. I heard you were at Sir Wm. Lee's as I passed thro' Aylsbury. How could you force yourself from it? . . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 20th*, 1777.

". . . . I PERFORMED all my commissions at Oxford, that is, I regaled my eyes with the gateway at Christ Church, in compliance with your Lordship's commands; & in obedience to those of Lady Nuneham, I bought a bathing-cap, which is

much approved of at Middleton, where a bathing-place is preparing with all expedition. N.B. It was a hen-house yesterday morning, & joins to a temple of Cloicinæ. I could talk a great deal of nonsense on those two subjects, but I spare you.

"I know nothing yet of the jewels, but the caskets are excellently well, plump, stout, & rural. The garden is very neat, but not so full of flowers as it ought to be; the greatest improvement I have observed in it was Lady Jersey walking there this morning before breakfast, 'Herself a fairer flower,' &c. It was near five o'clock, to be sure, before we went to dinner yesterday, but we walked round the wood after coffee, supped at ten, & were in bed between eleven & twelve. Such regularity! I wish you would all come & share it. The garden is so much closer to the house than your own, that it would save you a great many steps, & the whole place is as silent as a Chartreuse, unless the little gabblers, or Mademoiselle La Mol, are abroad, and, I hope, might easily be sent off to the farm whither the poor cocks & hens are gone who yesterday inhabited the bathing-room; they were carried off in hampers & a cart, for the creatures would not go willingly. I need not mention that there are seats on the terrace, in the wood, & in the nursery, where 'Clarissa' may be read with propriety; nay, there is a hermitage

for Robertson, without either mice, toads, serpents, or horned beasts, &, what is superior to all, there is a *trou madame* table. If these things do not tempt you it will be in vain for me to add that the master & mistress of Middleton would be very happy to see you, but let Lady Jersey speak for herself, for I see she has just got a frank for Lady Nuneham.

"None of the children acknowledged their Mama's picture at first sight but Lady Anne. They got off, however, by saying the head-dress deceived them, & when that is hidden they confess it like. There are a thousand reasons to make me admire it, & be fond of it.

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"I am your Lordship's & Lady Nuneham's, with a million of *et cæteras*,

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 30th*, 1777.

"..... THE Americans, very wisely, do not seem to intend to fight us if they can help it, but to tire us out. How I long to sing a song to Peace, like Mrs. Scot in Tamerlane! tho' her song, I believe, is to Sleep. But Sleep will do as well, for, as Lady Froth would say, War you know must sleep before Peace can come. 'To thee, O gentle Sleep,' &c. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Oct. 20th*, 1777.

"..... IF your Lordship's friends continue with you, & Mason is added to the set, I have not the vanity to think I could add to your amusement, & am therefore easy on that head likewise. A third person, as Lady Beverley says, is sometimes useful, but a seventh or eighth cannot be of much consequence, unless he is an excellent fiddler indeed, & then he would probably put half the rest out of tune. The Bishop of Litchfield told me yesterday that he imagined Mr. Mason would be with you on the sixteenth. I may therefore venture to congratulate both your Lordship & him, on the 20th, on his safe arrival. Do not go to work with poor Nuneham too rashly; I mean practically. In idea you may do as much as you please, & as soon as you please, but take Lady H. into the consultations, for, betwixt ourselves, I have a great opinion of her prudence & her understanding.

"The Duke & Duchess of Devonshire, as Mr. Vary tells me, are both pleased, & please, at Brighthelmstone.

"The King & Queen have prayers read to them every Sunday at Buckingham House, shall I borrow their Common Prayer-book for the use of Nuneham Church? It leaves out the lessons & a very great part of the service, & there is no

sermon, nor even a *Viol de Gamba*. St. James's Chapel goes on as usual. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Mount-street, Oct.* 1777.

". . . . . I AM pleased with the idea of the additions to the flower-garden, & have no doubt of the excellence of the alterations that may be intended for the park & the house, I only hope Doctress Harcourt will be present at the consultations.

"How the advices arrived I do not know, but a Gazette is expected to-night relative to Burgoyne & Arnold. But they say it is not to be out till twelve o'clock. Our private friends have nothing to do with that, which makes my public spirit less impatient. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Mount-street, Nov. 8th*, 1777.

". . . . I SHOULD have been vastly happy to have been with you at Middleton, for, in spite of your Lordship's, Mr. Mason's, or Mr. Brown's taste, I have a great deal to say (in defence of it) that is very comfortable. Why will you use the word monotone? Brown, with all his excellence, is, in general, monotony itself. He makes glorious places for strangers to go to see, but I am much mistaken if the master of those places does not

soon grow tired of them, &, perhaps, finds, as Pope says, that 'he better likes a field.' This is but fair, after your abuse of a scene whose defects I know as well as any of you, tho' I do not love to see them painted in charcoal. I know its merits too, & had you seen it in July & August you would have drawn a much more favourable picture. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, July 1st*, 1778.

". . . . . BY your Lordship's account of yourself you are doing nothing in London but what might be as commodiously done in the country, amidst the fragrance of Nuneham. Why, therefore, do you linger in heat, & dust, & stench? I hope you sometimes call upon M^rs. Hardinge, & water the sprouts of her politics; tho' I do not wish that either of you may be able to bring about an invasion or a rebellion. The theory may be very amusing, but the reality might be attended with disagreable consequences. I know England is exceedingly bad; but, as it happens to be my native country, I would rather it should reform itself than be compelled into any degree of imaginary excellence. The virtuous, the immaculate, Americans, indeed, who are the united quintessence of all other nations, may, in process of time, bring us back to our original purity.

"I long to know whether the Guards are coming back or not. My public spirit is strangely warped by private affection. The accounts I meet with are sometimes favourable, & sometimes not. If your Lordship or Mr. Harcourt know anything for certain, you will oblige me greatly by acquainting me with it. Keppel, we hear, is returned to Spithead; is that true? & what is the real reason of it? Opposition will probably assign one cause, & Administration another. Truth, like virtue, is always in the middle; I could quote a great many scraps of Latin to prove it.

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"I have been ten days at Middleton, & the family twelve, & do not, as yet, hear anything of moving. I wish Lady Harcourt & your Lordship would come & see how fixed & contented we are. We have read two books of Spencer's 'Fairy Queen,' & are going on like dragons. Lady Charlotte & Lady Anne have desired, as a favour, that they may read 'Robinson Crusoe' to me, &, on proper terms, I have complied. Lord Villiers has been for a few minutes upon a live horse, & despises his wooden one ever since. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 12th*, 1778.

". . . . . LORD JERSEY, like a true patriot, has attended a Justice meeting, & sworn in fifty ragamuffins, substitutes, & others. I was sorry to find that many of the substitutes were weavers from Coventry, who could get no employment.

"Sr. Wm. Howe, I find, brings no account of the return of the Guards, but Mrs. Stephens flatters herself that the recall was not arrived when he came away. I wish I could be sure that any recall was ever sent. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July*, 1778.

". . . . YOUR account of Mrs. Lockhart[q] rejoices me; I am sure she is lucky to have met with such a man as Colonel Harcourt. By what your Lordship says of her she will chuse to be happy, & consequently must be so. Married happiness, Cibber says, very truly, was never found from home. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bruton-Street, August*, 1778.

". . . . I HAVE dined but once at the Chaplains' table, & then Dr. Gisbourne, who was there, can witness that I eat very little, & drank less; & yet my cold is not gone. It is, however, better some days than others. His Majesty's Chaplains have nothing to do but to eat & drink; they cannot pray because none of the Royal Family are of the

[q] Miss Danby, daughter of Dr. Danby, married first, Mr. Lockhart; secondly, William, Lord Harcourt's younger brother; she eventually became Mary, Countess Harcourt.

Queen's house, & they cannot preach because the royal chappel is repairing. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Bruton-street, June*, 1779.

". . . . I LONG to see your works at Nuneham, & your fawns, & your dead laurels, & actually propose being with you on Monday or Tuesday next; by Saturday's post I will tell you which day it shall be. I see no likelihood of the Middleton family leaving London; Lord Jersey is come back again from Euston. Her Ladyship can drive herself out for many hours every day, can go to Ranelagh, &c., &c., but cannot yet venture upon a journey. The fresh air about London does her an infinite deal of good, & is not so raw as the country air; the dust softens it exceedingly. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Bruton-street, July* 10*th*, 1779.

". . . . THE account is true of the transports that are run ashore off Morlaix. I fancy Sir Charles Hardy is not permitted to go beyond the chops of the Channel for fear of bad consequences at home, for our rulers are monstrously alarmed about invasions. The French, however, will have forty transports less than they had, which is a good thing.

* * * * * *

"The report of the Mount is that Byron has taken two ships of Destaing's squadron, one of sixty-four, the other of eighty, guns. Qy., has Destaing any ship so large as an eighty gun?

"Clinton is likewise said to have taken several forts, & that Washington has retired up the North River. . . . ."

"1779.

". . . . PEOPLE are still, I find, in London determined upon having an invasion whether the French will or not. Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson, & Miss Shadd (who are at Brighthelmstone) saw fifty sail of ships pass by that coast; fear made the greater part of them three-deckers, but they luckily turned out to be that part of the Jamaica fleet which was bound for London. I am a wicked wretch not to be in a violent fright, for all my betters are; but I have lived long enough to wait events with patience, & to know that 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.'

* * * * * *

"Gibraltar is, I find, invested both by land & sea, & has been so (if not taken) ever since the thirteenth of July. There are great suspicions that the French & Spaniards have quarrelled: I wish it may be true.

* * * * * *

"I hope Mr. Brown stayed some days with you,

& that the weather was fine enough for him to see every part of Nuneham at leisure. I long to have him find fault with some trifle or other in Mason's alterations; your Lordship must at least tell him, when you write, that he has done so, & it would not be amiss to magnify it a little, or put it into Miss Fauquier's hands, if she should happen to see him in the North. I will undertake Mason's defence afterwards, for I will not suffer him to be run down. . . . .

"Loves, respects, services, compliments, &c.,
"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 16th*, 1779.

". . . . THE report of Lord Temple's fall did not reach Middleton till the day before he died. Most of the Grenvilles, I find, were there, & Miss Stapylton returned from seeing Lady Blandford die to the same melancholy scene at Stow. The trepanning gave him great pain. He had suffered very little till that operation, & probably would have gone off easier without it. Dr. Parsons, & some surgeon from Oxford, attended him, not Mr. Nousse; there was an etiquette in the case, but I cannot tell what. . . . .

"Loves, services, &c.,
"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 29th*, 1779.

". . . . THE following is the story of the Island of Pines, which I will just give you a sketch of, tho' (as Boys says) I shall tell it miserably.

"In some year or other a London Merchant was passing from England to the East Indies, with his whole family. The ship was cast away, and everybody drowned but the merchant's daughter, two white maids, & one black one, together with young Mr. Pine, the merchant's clerk. These, with the wreck of the vessel, were thrown upon a desert island. The young man was a perfect Robinson Crusoe, & by his industry & activity procured the necessaries of life for himself & his companions, &, after a certain time, some conveniences likewise. He was a conscientious youth, & concluded that Providence had sent him thither to people the island. He accordingly, in a solemn manner, took to wife one of the white maids; he was a youth that loved peace, & therefore, after a few scruples, & without any proneness, as Lady Wishfort says, to an iteration of nuptials, he likewise took to wife the other.

"In the meantime Miss grew up, whom he had always had an eye upon as the properest match, &, out of gratitude to her father's memory, he took her to wife also. Nobody now remained but little Blacky; humanity prevailed, & she became his fourth consort. The spouses were all prolific (for

it was an island, & abounded in shell-fish); all particularly attentive to Mr. Pine's health, & tolerably civil & assisting to each other; so that he had the satisfaction of living to see himself the master & father of four large families, & to intermarry his children with great propriety; for he acted in this important affair with the same purity & conscientiousness as he had always done. He joined the daughters of one wife to the sons of another, & when the island was discovered (I think in Charles the 2nd's time), the people were found to consist of four distinct tribes. . . . .

"Loves, respects, services, &c.,

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 30th*, 1779.

". . . . BY her size it seems high time that Lady Jersey should be in town, unless she would do a better thing for her health, which is, lie in in the country. My servant, who is a judge, says it is his opinion that she will *fall to pieces* next month at latest. Pray Heaven it may be a boy, & a stout one; the present boy still keeps your Lordship's letter in his pocket, & whenever he finds, what Milton calls, *fit audience*, takes it out to read. He read it the other day to Mrs. Johnson. N.B. He always laughs at the same places, so that the wit is sterling, & does not depend upon the first dazzle. . . . ."

"*Bruton-street, June*, 1780.

"YOUR Lordship will easily guess that our riots here cause a million of rumours in which there is no truth; the realities are bad enough. The mob have, as yet, done no mischief nearer this end of the town than Warwick-street, where they first began, but I will inquire more before I close my letter. Newgate they have certainly burned down, & released the felons, &c. The Poultry, Compter, & some other prisons and bridewells, they have likewise set open. Sir George Savile's, Lord Mansfield's, & some other houses, they have stripped likewise, & destroyed the furniture, as the newspapers will inform you. At Lord Mansfield's the soldiers fired, & killed several; & they have taken into their heads that Colonel Stephens ordered them to fire, who was not there, but with another party of Guards at the Royal Exchange. They, therefore, vow vengeance, & threaten to burn his house & destroy him. You may imagine we are greatly alarmed on this account. Mrs. Stephens has left her house, frighted out of her senses; but I hope nothing will come of it. I am glad you & Lady Harcourt are out of Town.

"I will add nothing to my account but the following proclamation, issued this afternoon, which will sufficiently shew you our situation. I hope it will have effect:—

"'A proclamation is issued directing all persons

to remain within their dwellings, & notifying that the King has thought proper to give orders to his officers to use the most immediate & effectual means for suppressing the present tumults.'

"Another Council is to be held at seven this evening.

"This is authentic, tho' I have it only in manuscript.

"When I hear anything more, if we are alive to-morrow morning, you shall know it. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Bruton-street.*

"WEDNESDAY night, a night of peril. There is an encampment in Hyde Park. Lady Jersey desires me to say that she would have written if I had not."

"*Bruton-street, June 9th*, 1780.

"I MUST write two lines to your Lordship. I sent you a bad account in my last, but since that the necessary slaughter has made this town more peaceable. The last night was a quiet one, without fires or tumults; the consternation still continues; Lord George Gordon is sent to the Tower. My information came from Lord Jersey at dinner to-day. He & her Ladyship set out for Middleton to-morrow. The newspapers tell you all our calamities, sometimes a little exaggerated. . . . .

"W. W."

"*London, June*, 1780.

"YOUR Lordship has sent me a most delightful letter, tho' you are rather wicked, as well as clever, in the conclusion of it. I can excuse prejudices, because I have, now & then, some few of them myself; but do not be too violent. It is a great satisfaction to be able to write to you without crying fire and murder. We are so very peaceable that I am half reconciled to a military government.

"The Camp in S^{t}. James's Park is so extremely pretty that you would be charmed with the sight of it.

"Tents, ammunition, colours, carriages, cannons, & kettle-drums.

"Only think of the lawn betwixt the Mall & the Canal thus spangled & ornamented in regular rows, with the soldiery as spruce as the scene they are placed in. Hyde Park, I am told, is more warlike, but I have been hitherto contented with the milder appearance.

"Your account of Nuneham is excellent; I long to enjoy it, & am happy to hear Lord Jersey has been with you; but why are you not both here to attend Parliament? You should leave the ladies to their *rural Elysiums*, & join Minos & Rhadamanthus, & Heaven knows who, in their awful distribution of rewards & punishments. What is to be done in the Houses to-day I do not know, but it is said His Majesty is to go down. If I am

acquainted with anything time enough you shall have it. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Bruton-street, June*, 1780.

"A BIT of paper in the shape of a letter, whether anything is written in it or not, is, I presume, acceptable in the country, if it comes from this tumultuous town. In the first place this town is not tumultuous; both the parks, to be sure, have encampments in them, &, as I have not the pleasure of being acquainted with any of the doorkeepers or sentries, I have not been able to get into either. The Horse Guards patrol the streets very quietly, & people at this end of the town walk about very peaceably. In the City, where I was to-day, there were garrisons in abundance, at the Bank, the Exchange, the Excise Office, the South-sea House, &c.; they are well guarded. The only garrison I entered was that at Grocers' Hall, where I called upon Colonel Stephens. The five rooms there are well littered down with straw, on which many were sleeping who had been up last night, & were probably to-night to take their duty again. There were a sufficient number, however, awake. The officers have not been in bed for this week past, but they seem very jolly & well. They are at present much caressed in the City, & entirely maintained. You would not have disliked the sight; they have a tolerable garden, with flowering shrubs, & a little squirting fountain in it.

"Miss Fauquier will probably send all the rumours, therefore I will say nothing about the King, Queen, & Prince of Wales, for I do not believe a syllable of it, & because, likewise, after my expeditions of to-day, I am heartily tired, & shall be too late for the post if I do not close my letter immediately. . . . .

"W. W.

"P.S. I cannot help adding a serio-comic circumstance: Wilkes has exerted himself, & attacked a Printer & Co. for publishing seditious papers."

"*Middleton Park, June 28th*, 1780.

"IT is but handsome to let your Lordship know that I arrived safe at Middleton in less than three hours after I left Nuneham. Had I been longer in my journey I might possibly have been too late for dinner, for the reform in the family in that respect is prodigious. Be it known to all persons we dine now at three o'clock, by the Middleton clock too, which is a quarter before that at Nuneham, & a full half-hour before those in Oxford & London. If I was not always hungry in fine fresh air (both before & after dinner, breakfast, & supper), I should hardly have time to provoke an appetite. I found the Lord & Lady

going out upon a neighbourly visit, to junket with their friends, but the two eldest young ladies did me the honour of accompanying me in my repast.

"I like this change mightily, & shall probably, by means of it, get rid of some of those distempers which, you know by your list, I am occasionally troubled with. My navel has not been cold since I was here, which it generally is an hour before dinner, if I wait long, & usually ends in a diarrhœa. I need not desire you not to mention this to the ladies, for I am perfectly acquainted with your Lordship's delicacy. Alas! it is too true, I have a prognosticating navel,—but I will not dwell upon melancholy subjects. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, July*, 1780.

". . . . I REJOICE at your expedition in the works at Nuneham, & have no doubt of their excellence; at least I shall not find fault with them till I hear Mr. Mason commends them. If he is in raptures, I shall probably cool; & if he dislikes, admire. Contradiction is the soul of conversation. Pray lay aside that horrible resolution of having nothing more to do with your carriage till you go to London for the winter.

* * * * * *

"Your church has long been admired as a heathen temple, it will now be the boast of Protestantism, & the little tinkling bell will summon us in reality 'to all the pride of prayer.' By the by, the Communion plate at Middleton is very extraordinary, the flagon, cup, &c., are silver-gilt; they were given by Lord Carleton, & put the church itself out of countenance.

"Mr. Lascelles having declined standing for Yorkshire may possibly bring Mason to you sooner than you expected. I hope no new rebellion will fall in his way & stop him. . . . ."

"*George-street, London, June 5th*, 1781.

". . . . LETTERS are at last received from Lord Cornwallis, & confirm his victories, & a great deal of slaughter. The Gazette will probably not be time enough out for me to send it to you. Mr. North, who danced a minuet on the birth-night, trod upon the King's toes, & alarmed the Queen, & made her cry out, 'have a care what you are about!'

"N.B. He danced with Miss Twysden. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, July 30th*, 1781.

". . . . I WAS here by myself only three days after I left Nuneham. I do not know why I call it by myself, for I had some excellent companions with me, who are exceedingly sorry that you have taken away the flight of steps at Nuneham. They thought them one of the prettiest ornaments about

the house, & had talked much of them to Mrs. Bordes; the running up & down them, it seems, was an amusement. Lady Jersey has brought Lord Villiers a new horse from Bath, to which I have given the name of Bum-Brusher, but it is a name only to be known to ourselves in private; it would be a serious affront if the secret was to be communicated to the servants, & therefore he is to be called Minikin in the stables. Gods & men, according to Homer, called things by different names. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 18th*, 1781.

". . . . I CAN squeeze nothing from Lord & Lady Jersey; indeed, they both talk of writing to Harrogate themselves. Lord Hyde tells me the King, Queen, Prince of Wales, &c., &c., &c., have made a morning visit to the Grove. They arrived totally unexpected about eleven o'clock, & stayed till after three, put the family in a bustle, & hindered them from going out to dinner where they were engaged. They liked it, nevertheless, & were all invited, & went, to the Prince of Wales's birthday at Windsor.

"Pray tell Lord Harcourt that my friend Dr. Balgay has declined accepting a bishoprick, on account of his time of life, & the badness of his constitution. How many would wish to be called

'My Lord' on their deathbed, & to have Right Reverend Father in God engraved on their tombstones! . . . ."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 11th*, 1781.

"YOUR Lordship knows what I have always said about Carminatives, that they produce the wind before they expel it. I am afraid I may say something like it with regard to Harrogate water; for, by your Lordship's account of it, it seems to increase, if not create, the disease in order to have the credit of curing it. However, if it really does cure it at last I shall be perfectly contented. It will be *secundum artem;* many great physicians, I believe, practise in that manner. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Sept.* 1781.

"WHETHER this will catch your Lordship at Harrogate I do not know; but I am very glad to find that you make that place so easy to you. Men worth knowing seldom attend water-drinking places unless they are invalids. The generality of people who are not sick go thither to be what they call jolly. Drunken country squires, & *beau* tradesmen from the neighbouring towns, were its principal manufacture the little time I had once the pleasure of being at Harrogate; but that was many years ago.

"You say nothing of your intended excursion to York, but I presume it is to take place, as Mason has made you a visit, & you seem perfectly acquainted with the Miss Morrits.

* * * * * *

"All here are well; Lord Villiers is gone to school again, & the whole Clarendon family left Middleton this morning. I have just received the fourth book of the 'Garden,' & must beg the favour of your Lordship, as you will probably see the author, to make my acknowledgements to him, tho' it is not impossible but I may thank him myself. . . . .

"W. W."

"*London.*

". . . . . THE minority was very large in the House of Commons on Wednesday night, & Lord North was obliged to assure the country gentlemen that there would be no war carried on upon the Continent of America; they were only to keep some particular posts, & act by sea principally. The papers probably will tell you more of this than I can.

"Lord le Despenser is dead; Lord Hyde is talked of to succeed Lord John Clinton about the Prince of Wales, but he knows nothing of it himself; Lord Chesterfield to be Lord-Lieutenant of Bucks in the place of Lord le Despenser. The comic opera is

said to be the finest thing ever exhibited. Lord George Gordon is to marry Miss Aquilar. My journey was a very pleasant one, & very expeditious. A great fog at Nettlebed, & a greater in London. Very excellent cold beef at Hounslow, & my lodgings in Town totally unprepared for me, because they expected me last night, & did not think I would come to-day. What can I say more? I have not yet been at the Mount. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Bruton-street, June 29th*, 1782.

". . . . . AS to news from this place, public or private, Miss Fauquier is your sheet-anchor. I have heard nothing of Lord Rockingham to-day, but he certainly has been, if not is, in great danger. What a loss he would be to the present administration! But I have nothing to do with politics, I am a loyal subject, & belong to every administration. I remember Lady Harcourt was once in that mild way of thinking, but evil communications, &c. We are, however, all together at present, & a blessing it is that we are so. Union of hearts & gooseberry tarts. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Bruton-street, July 4th*, 1782.

"YOUR Lordship is superabundantly good indeed, & have given me a most excellent detail of

the present state of Nuneham. I am perfectly acquainted with the whole house. On the first reading of your letter I could not help pitying your shattered condition, but on a second perusal I found that, exclusive of the breakfast-room, you were in possession of as much as I ever expected you would be by this time, or indeed, as you will ever make use of when the house is finished, unless you have a good (*bad*) deal of company.

"You know I have long prophesied that you will never get beyond the little blue-room & the eating-room: the octagon & great drawing-room will belong to the state apartment, & be solemn appurtenances to the Velvet Bedchamber. The saloon may have its allurements in a hot summer afternoon, or a cool morning in autumn (as its situation is calculated both to avoid & enjoy the sun), but beyond that you will never stir a step. That you are so much pleased with what is already done is an excellent circumstance; what is doing will always amuse you, & lead your impatience gently on to a happy conclusion. I say this as thinking it possible that you may now & then be impatient on a hot day, or a cold day, or a wet day, or, in short, any day when the wind is in any quarter; for we are all frail, & subject to what Shakespear calls the skyey influence. You did not mention the party, nor how you found the bank of trees which

were planted to hide the offices. I will not ask after the sunk fence; if it does not do as it should do I will never know it, for I will never go near it.

* * * * * *

"I believe I shall follow your Lordship's advice & pay a visit to Osterley next week. Colonel Stephens is to procure a ticket. The park at Osterley, when I saw it, was worse than a dead flat,—it was a dreary dead flat; for as to flats merely 'lawns & level downs, & flocks grazing the tender herb,' I can be pleased with them, & think those who require everywhere great inequalities, & Heaven knows what, have rather a contracted dram-drinking taste than a good one; they are enemies to their own satisfactions. If what it has is right, what does it signify what a place wants. I shall say nothing about Windsor, that is a sacred subject, tho' I know there are sneerers who have talked about dry ditches. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, July 18th*, 1782.

". . . . I DINED with the Fauquier family the day before I set out, & find they are all going to wash at Brighthelmstone, or, as the country people call it, Brighton. Most people seem to think as your Lordship does, that the reasons given by the seceders from administration for their going out are the very reasons which should

have kept them in. Mr. W. says the Crown is again lapsed to his Majesty. I could say something upon that head, but I will be hanged if I do to such wicked people as you are, & will therefore change the subject to avoid temptation.

"I am sorry to find your house advances so slowly; by your Lordship's first letter I took it for granted you would, long before this time, have been in absolute possession of the eating-room & the little blue room, if not the saloon, & what more could you desire for comfort? the fitting-up the rest would be only a summer amusement. This, I believe, I expressed in one of my letters, & thought I was talking very rationally, tho', perhaps, I might a little exceed the strict bounds of probability.

* * * * * *

"We could not get a ticket for Osterley last week, as Mr. Child was gone to some distance from London on a visit, so that I must not expect to see that place till next summer. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park*, 1782.

"I MUST thank your Lordship for the very entertaining & obliging letter which your painting Bard[r] delivered to me this morning at breakfast.

[r] Mr. Mason.

He is here in his own element; he has been in constant employment from the very moment he came. I will not say that he is an Orpheus, & makes woods follow him, but he certainly makes underwoods fall before him, & posts & rails vanish at his presence. He stays here to-night & to-morrow, goes to Wakefield on Saturday, & returns hither again on Tuesday. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Aug.* 1782.

"I MUST steal five minutes from my attentions to Mrs. Stephens (a subject your Lordship used to be very censorious upon in London) to express my regret for having left Nuneham, notwithstanding the agreable society I meet with here. I never performed a journey so rapidly in my life; your Lordship's clock, when I set out, wanted a quarter of twelve, & the clocks were only striking twelve when I arrived at Oxford. You have, therefore, three quarters of an hour's law, & may do everything handsome before you go to church, & avoid a Sunday-feel for the rest of the day, a very comfortable circumstance.

* * * * * *

"If I could write (& read) like Mr. Pennant I would describe all the little deviations I made from the high road, first to the left, to Mr. Hayes's, the bookbinder (whose son is just married), where

I bespoke six Common Prayer-Books, printed at Cambridge in the year 1766; then to the right, to Mr. Jackson's, the printer, where I purchased a box of the celebrated analeptic pills, invented by the great Dr. James, of drunken memory. Then again to the left, to a grocer's, directly opposite to the very spot where Bocardo stood, from whence I was obliged to carry off half-a-pound of snuff, of Hardham's best, in a sheet of brown paper, because, as I presume, canisters, tho' mentioned by Homer (as Mr. Pope's translation can prove,—

"'And load the shining canisters with bread),'

are not yet introduced even in a learned University. I should likewise, naturally, from the word *grocer*, digress to Ignatius Sancho's letters, to which, I perceive, your Lordship is not a subscriber, tho' a Mr. Mason is; whether the Revd. Precentor or not, he only can determine. Lady Jersey is, & the books are here, & there is a long list likewise of many of your acquaintance. I shall read them immediately, for he seems a worthy creature from what I have seen by dipping, but I have not time to say anything more about him.

"One piece of news I must add: the match at Blenheim is off amicably, tho' it gives great uneasiness to Lord Trentham[s], who is going abroad

[s] If this match had come off Lord Trentham would never have been Duke of Sutherland.

for a year. The refusal came from the young lady, but in the most civil & ingenuous manner.

"I hope your Lordship's case of grouse from Sir H. Williamson, tho' they smelt exceedingly strong to-day at Henley, came sweet to Nuneham. 'I believe you must pot them.'

"There is such a noise at the cribbage-table that I hardly know what I write, & therefore had better conclude with proper compliments to your Lordship & Co. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 4th*, 1782.

". . . . . I MUST not ramble on any farther without thanking your Lordship for your excellently minute account of everything that is done & doing at Nuneham. You describe so well that I see it all, even to the little colifichet of the urn & the rose-bush, which will be a delightful part for me to find fault with, tho' I cannot help confessing Mr. M. has won upon me so much by his late kind remonstrances with regard to the new water-closet, that I shall with difficulty bring myself for the future to object (even to his face) to anything he does. I hope he has told you that I rehearsed the operation with a door & a chair at Oxford, & that I think I shall be able to manage it without much suffocation. That cheek-by-jowl affair with the ladies in the passage is certainly ill-contrived,

& Miss Fauquier is of my opinion. The *dulcis strepitus* (she says) of Horace (which may be translated *Grunt Harmonious*) should not be overheard; nor should the sexes go hand in hand to the altars of necessity anywhere but at water-drinking places, where it may be useful to make shy people acquainted. You speak so highly of the terraces that I am afraid the windows will be continually open, &, out of flattery to your Lordship's taste, one must be obliged to catch cold a dozen times a-day. If they are shut down in the eating-room during dinner & supper it is all that I shall desire.

* * * * * *

"I must not conclude my letter without proper congratulations on Jack's marriage. May he people your village with a great many as good young men as himself. I hope his wife is dressy if not handsome. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Middleton Park, Aug.* 1782.

"I AM glad to find you advance so happily at Nuneham, & that your Lordship finds so much agreable employment in hanging the pictures. As to Mr. Mason's Samaritan[t], I am bound by the strictest secrecy to say nothing about it; when it comes out in all its glory I must & will talk. I

[t] Painted as an altar-piece for Nuneham Church. It now hangs in the south corridor in the house.

am rather afraid you will make it too fine for the simplicity of the rest of the church. Are the mule's ears & other extremities to be tipped with gold likewise? I have seen that done to lions & unicorns with a surprizing effect, but I must say no more on this sacred subject. The library, I perceive, is to have its beauties as well as wits; the inspirers as well as the inspired. I hope it will always have a good fire, & its doors & windows shut. Thank Heaven it has no terraces.

* * * * * *

"The affair at Blenheim is, I perceive (by your Lordship's letter, & by what I hear from other quarters), seen in different lights. The Lady of this family defends the young lady very strenuously without the least reflection on the gentleman; & most certainly, if she did not like him, she was in the right to refuse him even at last, & he had better be without her than with her. The mother, I should imagine, was rather inclined to the match, as it was into her own family. Some people have conjectured, but it is merely conjecture, that the young lady would have preferred an offer from another cousin, Lord Herbert. He, your Lordship knows, was applying for Miss Child. After all it has probably only arisen from girlish inexperience, timidity at first made her accept what she even then disapproved of. . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 18th*, 1782.

"MR. MASON is come back again to Middleton, & has brought Mr. Stonhewer with him. When he will return to Nuneham I cannot tell; he is so delighted with the aptness of Lord Jersey's gardener to receive instructions, that I believe he would willingly pass a month or two with him. As to myself, I certainly propose, with your Lordship's permission, to be at Nuneham on Monday next, notwithstanding I have a rheumatism at present in my *os sacrum* (called so from its being the priest's part in the sacrifice). His Majesty begins hunting next week, which will oblige Lord Jersey to be backwards & forwards; & her Ladyship will have her excursions likewise. Anything is preferable, you know, to being long at home, & she is thoroughly convinced that all pretensions to love, or even bear with, the country, are affectation, especially in women. . . . .

"W. W."

To the Countess Harcourt:—

"*Mount Coffee House, Dec.* 1782.

". . . . . I CALLED upon Lady Jersey yesterday; I dined with her to-day. I called upon Miss Fauquier this morning; I dine with her to-morrow. Both ladies write to you; I can swear for one, for I saw the letter written, & I send it inclosed. The

operation was performed while we were at dinner, for it seems she had just returned from the poor sick Duchess of Devonshire, & eaten so much brawn with her, to stay their stomachs for fashionable hours, that she could only get down a lark & a-half, & employed the other tedious time, while the meat was upon the table, in letters to dear friends. She supped with the poor sick Duchess, too, last night, & stayed, out of compassion only, till two in the morning. She is just gone to the opera, & I am at the Mount scribbling this nonsense. . . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

To Lord Harcourt:—

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 12th*, 1783.

"I WROTE a scrap of a note to your Lordship as soon as I arrived here, merely, as I told you, to make my acknowledgements, & shew my good breeding. I have lived in a hurry ever since, & taken more exercise (Lord help me!) in three days than in two months' quiet residence at Nuneham. There are persons, you know, who cannot rest unless they spin like a top, & live upon a whirligig. Besides riding & driving we are now fond of prodigious long walks in dirty lanes & cross-roads. It is well I was a little prepared by the water-parties, or I should have absolutely been

broken-winded by this time. Give *me*, for real pleasure, a fourscore-miles' journey in a postchaise, with good inns at every stage, & the glasses up or down just as I chuse it; as to the blinds I would never use them at all. Lord Jersey has taken a ride this morning to breakfast at Wakefield, probably hunt, & returns in the evening.

"Mason's alterations succeed very well: the Strombolo walk is still a little Strombolo, but will be better every year if the other shrubs grow as well as the laurels. The sweep of the walk thro' the wood, to avoid the north terrace, is excellent, tho' it is not Mason's; the combination of it, which is his, is excellent likewise, &, I hope, will still be continued by degrees. Your Lordship would do it to-morrow morning before breakfast.

"I told you I was not cold; I was not the first day of my arrival, but to make up for it I have been cold ever since. North winds, strong showers occasionally, & not a wasp stirring. I have not yet recovered the doors and windows of Sir H. Dashwood's house last Sunday. It was not a common running stream of air, but a cold bath in violent motion. We did not stay long, & most of that little time I got into the garden to warm myself. Lady Dashwood speaks highly of Nuneham & its flower-garden, tho' she has not seen it these two years.

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"I beg my best respects to Lady Vernon & her three young ladies, particularly to Miss Vernon's Italian, Miss Anne's music, & Miss Louisa's curiosity. . . . ."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 19th*, 1783.

"I AM at present playing a solo at Middleton, but I have seven strings to my fiddle, for all the young gentry are with me. The Lord & Lady are taking the delightful diversion, this warm weather, of hunting in the forest; I could almost say, with Shakespear's clown, 'the more fools they.' This is the third day since their departure, & they are to return when the destinies decree, which I fancy will be to-morrow; & they may possibly bring some dear friends with them, if they have any there whom they cannot avoid asking, or chuse to invite.

"I am obliged to M^rs^. Clive for her explanation of the relationship between our old friend and M^rs^. W.; not that I should have been greatly hurt had she been nearer allied. It is many an honest woman's case, especially in that ticklish situation the stage, to have even her daughter, grand-daughter, and great-grand-daughter go astray for three generations; sixteen quarters in virtue would be a miracle. I am glad, however, her venison was untainted, & heartily wish her another haunch as fat, as tender, & as immaculate.

"There was a report here, some days ago, that General Evelyn was dead. Is it true? I have not seen it in the papers. The report added that Mr. & Mrs. Harcourt were with him when he fell from his horse, & that his death followed almost immediately, tho' he did not at first perceive he was hurt.

* * * * * *

"The Strombolo Walk [u] looks at present rather sneaking, but I have been used to dignity & Brown's Hill [x]. Four of the good folks here send their loves, & the other three look as if they wish to send theirs too. Lord Villiers is ten years old this day. "W. W.

"P.S. Your Lordship is very obliging in wishing me at Nuneham. I am certainly, in general, better there than anywhere; the company, the manner of life, in short, the *tout ensemble*, agrees with me exceedingly, & you are extremely good in letting me avail myself of it so frequently. It will not, I dare say, be a great while before I wait upon you again, & I shall do it with infinite satisfaction."

"*Middleton Park, Sept. 8th*, 1783.

"....I HAVE the agreable opportunity of offering you my company, such as it is, once more at Nuneham. I shall now have *resided* (as the clergy call it, ask Mr. Mason else) five whole

[u] At Middleton. [x] At Nuneham.

weeks at Middleton, come Thursday next, & shall add some days to the account before I have the honour of dining with your Lordship on Monday the 15th inst. But why do I talk of myself when you have probably by this time, or will have shortly, the visitor of all visitors, Miss M.? She is not, I find, gone to Ireland, but has left Bath for *some time* on the *pressing* invitation of her friends. Lady North expects her with impatience at Bushy, & Lord & Lady Harcourt will never forgive her if she does not contrive to spend *some time* at Nuneham, 'for they are all fond of *me*. Mr. North is so delighted with the white satin night-cap *I* embroidered for him, that he dies to shew *me* some particular civilities. It is impossible to say when *I* shall get back again, *I* shall be so *fetée, caressée*,' &c.

"All this is true; the perambulations are begun, as you, perhaps, already know by woful experience. I hope the visit of *some time* will be over before *I* arrive; however, if it is not *I* can bear it, *I* am only a lodger.....

"W. W."

"*Charles-street, Grosvenor-square.*

"I AM sorry for your oats; as to your Lordship's abuse of the place, you know I never mind it. You are a wicked wretch, & ought to have been left at Stanton Harcourt. O! if you had, what a delightful

castle would you have built! so gloriously gloomy that you might have laughed at the idea of an additional window-tax.

* * * * * *

"As to news, you will have heard of Miss Laura Keppel from the fountain-head. I hear the little smart maid that belonged to Lady Horatia Walgrave was her attendant in her flight. Lord Beaulieu kissed hands yesterday for an Earldom. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

"*Charles-street, Grosvenor-square,*
"*June 21st*, 1784.

". . . . I AM not at all acquainted with any of the politicians of the times; all my knowledge of state affairs is derived from the newspapers, & would be stale intelligence before it could reach you. I only wish the ministry would dispatch their own important businesses, & have some little regard to the civil list. If they will only pay me one hundred pounds of my arrears I will quit London immediately, for I am tired of staying in it; but without that sum I cannot conveniently & creditably depart; the remainder I would wait for with patience till the destinies & so forth shall decree its payment. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Aug. 22nd*, 1784.

". . . . I DARE say Mr. Mason told you with what *extreme complacency* he looked round on all his operations at this place. I should have told you, if I had come back with him, how his vanity swaggered: 'This I do not repent of;' 'I was rather lucky here;' '& this (of at least half a-dozen things) was absolutely the best alteration I ever made in my life.' But, as he is not with you, I shall drop the subject. I hope he takes Nuneham in his way when he returns home. . . . .

"W. W."

From Lord Harcourt to Mr. Whitehead:—

"*Monday.*

"NOTWITHSTANDING the late beautifull alteration in the flower-garden, that favorite spot (like the master of it) has seen its best days, and I fear will never be to me what it has been, for my poor faithfull Walter dropped down dead in it on Saturday morning, and, though assistance was at hand immediately, expired. His loss, I am very certain, can never be repaired, for I must not expect to meet with half his skill or half his merit in any successor I may make choice of; and I am so much a creature of habit, that I shall ever miss him, who was become, by length of years and faithfull service, a part of the place, and almost of

myself. I prophesy of my orange-trees that they will all wither now he is gone, and I shall be long before I can take any interest in a place which owed so much of its excellence to the unceasing care of the humble friend I have lost. You, who know how much of my time I have passed for a long course of years in the flower-garden with your old acquaintance, will not be surprised at the shock his death has given me. We dine at the Bishop of Salisbury's to-morrow to avoid seeing or knowing anything of Walter's funeral, which, because he was universally known and esteemed in all the neighbourhood, will be attended, it is thought, by a vast concourse of people.

"Gen. Johnson and the divine Cecelia came here on Thursday, and left us this morning, and it is impossible to say how agreable and amusing she has been, nor how much we wished she could have prolonged her stay here. Lady and the Misses Vernon send compts. without number, as does also Lady Harcourt, who goes again to London on Wednesday, so that for three days, and perhaps longer, I shall not have a mortal with me here, nor do I desire any company that requires to have the honours of the house and place done to them, but, if you should be at liberty by the frisks and frolics of the Earl and Countess[y], pre-

[y] Of Jersey.

vious to their setting out on their long tour, to leave Middleton, I shall think it very fortunate (whatever you may do). . . . . .

"Adieu."

Mr. Whitehead to Lord Harcourt:—

"*Middleton Park, Aug.* 1784.

"I VERY sincerely condole with your Lordship for the loss of poor Walter. It really hurts me exceedingly, you will so continually feel the want of him without being able possibly to supply his place. You may get a diligent, a faithful, & an intelligent servant (tho' very hard to meet with), but you can never get *the* man. You have been so habituated to his very errors that you will not like a person who is without them. Time & custom had given him a right to indulgence: what will be a downright fault in another, & put you out of humour, was only amusing in him. Indeed, I am extremely sorry for him, & shall not myself be easily reconciled to the garden without him. His poor old father must be very miserable. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park*, 1784.

"I CAN hold out no longer; I must enquire after Nuneham & its inhabitants. I was in hope Mr. Mason, as there is a pen & ink in the bower, &

as he must necessarily have spent a pretty deal of time in the flower-garden, would at least have told me the Fauquier family were well, & that Miss Fauquier approved of his Flora, tho' she could not say much in praise of his Anaconna. As to your Lordship, I cannot say I expected a line from you till the operation of your journey had done working. By Lady Jersey's account you may possibly have had a second dose; &, if so, I almost doubt your being yet able even to paint your distress, especially to one whose hard heart feels so little for such intolerable grievances. . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Dec. 22nd*, 1784.

"YOUR Lordship must not imagine that I was the only guest you were so rude as to leave at Nuneham. Poor Mr. Robinson had particularly desired somebody to call him very early, which office was punctually performed; but, in the performance of it, the obliging somebody locked him into his room, where he remained a prisoner till Betsey, like the rosy-fingered morn, unbarred the gates, which event did not take place till after she had paid her *devoirs* to the departing family, and brought, as usual, the capuchin & the clogs (that had unluckily been forgotten) to the coach-door. Then Industry clapped her broom into her hand, & sent her upstairs. So much for fine writing.

N.B. I always take care to keep the keys of my doors withinside.

* * * * * *

"The cold of this place is certainly more piercing than that at Nuneham; I shall be hardened to it in a day or two. From the brightest morning that could be, it at this very moment, of a sudden, snows abominably. If the snow is general you may thank your stars you travelled yesterday; I shall hope to hear you had an excellent journey. My Middleton friends are now, probably, on their road from Blenheim, & will find it slippery.

"I am now writing by the drawing-room fire, which, thank Heaven, has ceased to be a wood one. I ought to have written to your Lordship by the post this morning, but no letters were sent; indeed, if they had, mine could not have gone with them, for I was in bed long after they would have set out. To-morrow I begin rising at nine o'clock, & endeavour to shake off Nuneham bad habits. . . . .

"W. W."

"*Middleton Park, Jan. 2nd*, 1785.

"I AM to thank your Lordship not only for your obliging letter to myself, but for the one to Lord Jersey. And so poor Mrs. Siddons can neither write nor read, and is daily losing her at-

tractions? Such idle censures, & such neglects, all great talents must experience; & she must comfort herself with not deserving them, & shame her detractors by shining on. Novelty, not Excellence, is the idol both of the great vulgar & the small; but the latter, luckily, is lasting, & the few whose praise is worth having will always admire it. Therefore, do not advise her to dance on the slack-wire, or fly from a church steeple, tho' it might gain her the applause of millions, & the immortality of perhaps a whole fortnight. . . .

"W. WHITEHEAD."

UNPUBLISHED VERSES BY MR. WHITEHEAD.

THE REMOVAL OF THE VILLAGE AT NUNEHAM.

"The careful matrons of the plain
  Had left their cots without a sigh,
Well pleased to shroud their little train
  In happier mansions, warm, & dry:
While Mopsa still, with ling'ring pace,
  And many a look, & many a tear,
Oft' tried in vain to quit the place;
  Her feet were chained; her heart was there:
'Twas there from youth to age the Dame
  Her morn, her noon, her eve, had passed:
'Twas there her Colin told his flame;
  'Twas there her Colin breath'd his last.
On homely fare, by scanty fires,
  'Twas there she nurs'd her infant care;
And every duty life requires
  Had prudent Mopsa practic'd there.
And must she leave the dear-lov'd shed,
  Coeval with her tottering frame?
She, too, must mingle with the dead,—
  The time, the fate, should be the same.
Each flower which round her cottage grows,
  Will still her fostering aid demand;
The tree, which o'er her waves its boughs,
  Was planted by her virgin hand.

The bordering hedge, the sloping field,
  The path her footsteps wont to press,
Tho' once with negligence beheld,
  Was now an object of distress.
There are who boast their hoarded grain,
  Their flocks, & numerous herds; & some,
They say, will rove the world for gain,
  And bring their countless treasures home;
For those, alas, let others strive,
  To her no greater bliss could be,
Than in her cottage still to live,
  And die beside her favorite tree:
This Harcourt heard with pitying ear,
  And 'midst th' enchanting scene he plann'd,
Indulgent to her humble prayer,
  Allow'd her clay-built cot to stand.
And Mopsa, to reward her worth
  As daughter, sister, wife, & mother,
Enjoy'd this Paradise on earth,
  Till death remov'd her to another.

"MR. WHITEHEAD presents his respects to Lady Nuneham, & has sent inclos'd the Eclogue she desired; he has no doubt that her Ladyship will peruse it with the same sensibility with which the author wrote it. The critics he defies, for it has the great requisites which they demand, it has a beginning, a middle, & an end, & is, perhaps, in that respect, one of the most perfect pieces which any age has produced. Little inaccuracies will easily be excused by the candid & judicious where the whole is so complete. Modesty will not permit him to expatiate any farther."

The Eclogue which follows was occasioned by Lord Harcourt's having spoken with admiration of a French garden :—

THE FLOWER GARDEN: AN ECLOGUE.

"PROPT on his cane, with Annette by his side
  (Filon ran loose, & poor Coquette was tied),
While N——'s Lord his blooming wild explores,
  And reigns unrivall'd o'er his realm of flowers.
A sudden thought disturbs his pensive breast,
  And thus th' ingenuous feelings were exprest:—
'In this vile world is everything confin'd?
  Must Nature be what Nature was design'd?
In vain does spring its dewy moisture shed,
  And wake the drooping lily from its bed:

In vain do summers' suns expand the rose,
And gorgeous autumns spread their golden glows,
If all that live must die, if each fair flower
Alike expects th' inevitable hour,
Whether whole tribes insatiate storms invade,
Or one by one the pale-eyed beauties fade!
"'Oft, when they shine, at some delightful noon,
Refresh'd with rains, & gilded by the sun,
And I, with almost ecstasy, survey
My little troops in all their bright array:
Ev'n in their blooms their hapless fate I see,
And weep, like Xerxes, their mortality!
"'O happier France! Your gardens I revere;
Corbeille & Treillage flourish all the year:
The frosts strike harmless on your painted posts,
And ev'n its cradled walks December boasts.
"'Here thro' the gravel bursts the bubbling rill,
And sloping turfs eternal dews distill;
Your firmer walks are level, straight, & dry,
Nor one dead colour there fatigues the eye:
Where all the rainbow's various hues are found,
And Fleurs-de-Lys, in pebbles, paint the ground,
Each step we tread the breast to glory warms,
And every parterre is, a coat of arms!
"'It shall be so, ye short-lived sweets, adieu!
In vain you court the smell, in vain the view;
No more shall mats their sheltering aid supply,—
Die, ye Azalias, ye Magnolias, die!
Rave, or not rave, your shivering pride shall fall,
And one promiscuous ruin whelm you all.

"'Give me your wither'd roots, ye falling trees;
Give me your pebbles, ye surrounding seas;
Ye mineral damps, that to perfection rear
Your spars & chrystals, pour your treasures here:
Your spoils shall triumph o'er this wintry waste,
'Till France shall envy Britain's artful taste.'

"Poor Walter Clarke, who heard, behind a tree,
This plaintive dirge, this sad soliloquy,
Burst trembling forth, & with a heart-felt groan,
Exclaim'd, 'My hopes, my darling hopes, are gone!
O my good Lord, if this your fixt decree,
Be kind, at least, to Martha Horne & me:
Your faithful slaves, obsequious, & resign'd,
Will change their labours, as you change your mind:
Will still with duteous care their wages earn,
And build you such a garden—in a barn!'"

MR. WHITEHEAD wrote the following lines to LORD NUNEHAM in consequence of LORD HARCOURT'S building a LAUNDRY close to the FLOWER-GARDEN, at Nuneham [a]:—

"WE laundry-maids at Nuneham
Are the happiest maids in the nation,
With a rub, rub, rub, & a frothing tub,
And a charming situation.

"No more shall our caps & aprons
Be torn by gooseberry-bushes,
Or our ruffles be rent by the thistle, & bent,
Or our sheets be soil'd with rushes.

"Our lines shall grace laburnams,
Since such our master's will is;
And our smaller things shall dangle on strings
From tuberose tops & lilies.

"No more in our chests of linen
Shall Lavender reign despotic,
We'll cull our flowers from yonder bowers,
And our smocks shall smell exotic."

[a] Vide p. 296.

THE following lines were written by MR. WHITEHEAD on the DEATH of LAUNCELOT BROWN, Esq.—

"CLOS'D are his toils, the fatal shaft has flown,
And in Earth's bosom sleeps self-tutor'd Brown,
Whose eye, quick glancing, from the shapeless waste
Could call forth form, & painted as it pass'd;
Could add fresh smiles to Nature's softest face,
And tame her wildest beauties into grace.
"Beneath his plastic hand, his keener view,
Albion, the world's fair garden, fairer grew;
On half the land he stamp'd his genuine fame,
And Taste & Genius have inscrib'd his name.
For what remains, tho' hill, & vale, & shade,
And lawns & waters lend their copious aid,
Wanting his master-touch to bid them know
Their just gradations, & their happiest glow,
The loveliest scenes must still unfinish'd stand,
And owe their only charms to Nature's hand."

TO GEORGIANA, COUNTESS SPENCER, ON LORD ALTHORP'S GOING TO HARROW SCHOOL.

"THE dames of Greece & Rome, when Glory's charms
Call'd their dear offspring from their fost'ring arms,
The issuing boy with eager transport drest,
Bound the rich corselet on his panting breast,
Taught the light plume with grace to wave on high,
And girt the sword on the young warrior's thigh.
"And must a British fair be taught to gain
An easier conquest o'er a transient pain?
Why seems that clouded brow opprest with care?
What means that sigh? He goes not to the war:
He goes to gain, in wise Minerva's field,
A mental helmet & a mental shield,
To nerve each virtue, combat every fear,
And bring thee back a joy for every tear.
"Oh think hereafter what thy breast will feel,
When, nobly anxious for the publick weal,
He leads—in Senates leads—the firm debate,
Or guides, with strength matur'd, the reins of state.
How wilt thou then, when Fame's immortal blast
Swells on thy ear, forget the sorrows past,
And, as each moment brings some added bliss,
Exclaim with fondness—did I weep for this?"

TO LADY NUNEHAM.

"CAN this be Nuneham's liberal shade
Where wreaths are twin'd & honours paid,
And rustic carols sung;
Profuse of praise to every guest,
Whilst to the mistress of the feast
No grateful lyre is strung?

"To her the animating soul,
The moving spirit of the whole,
Warm'd by whose quick'ning charms
Each cottage breast to glory wakes,
Each industry new vigour takes,
And sloth unfolds her arms.

"She deigns the orphan's cry to hear,
She wipes from want the falling tear,
With pity's healing dews,
She bathes the rugged couch of pain,
And yet no muse has breathed a strain
To her [b], *herself a muse.*

"She wants it not, for humbler themes
Reserve your vain poetic dreams,
Ye brethren of the bays.
That heart, from whence such bounty flow'd,
That heart, which feels for others' good,
That heart itself repays."

[b] "Adriel the Muse's friend, himself a Muse."—*Dryden.*

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THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

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PREFACE.

THIS eighth volume of the Harcourt Papers, which is composed of an *olla-podrida* of trifles, is put together in continuation of the scheme of the editor, to present a selection of the writings and correspondence preserved in his family archives.

As they will only be submitted to the friendly critic, it is hoped that they will pass muster better than might have been the case had they been exposed to the full glare of publicity.

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Harcourt Papers.

LITTLE interest attaches to letters whose authors are entirely unknown to us.

The name of Madame de Viry, though well known in London society during the middle of the last century, has now, of course, passed from memory; a sketch of her character, found amongst Lord Harcourt's papers, will, therefore, form a useful preface to the letter which commences this volume.

PORTRAIT

OF HENRIETTA JANE SPEED, COUNTESS DE VIRY.

She was the daughter of Colonel Speed, and lineally descended from the geographer of that name; at the death of her father, when she was very young, she was received into the family of the Viscount Cobham, her relation, and educated under the care of himself, and of the Viscountess, his wife; who at her death bequeathed the whole of her large fortune to Miss Speed.

M^me^ de Viry possessed the most brilliant parts, she was good humoured, full of vivacity, and had

an inexhaustible fund of original and engaging wit; strong sense, united with observation, and penetration the most acute, more than supplied the want of literary knowledge, for which she had not the least relish; and, without having ever given herself the trouble of learning anything, she appeared to know everything.

Mr. Gray has slightly sketched her portrait in four lines in the "Long Story." Her person was tall, but not slender, her complexion dark, and, although she had no pretensions to beauty, yet an easy and graceful air, with fine eyes and teeth, united to render her altogether extremely pleasing. After the death of Lady Cobham, she married Le Baron de la Perriere, son of Le Comte de Viry (several years resident here as Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of Turin), who became successively minister from that court at the Hague, in London, at Madrid, and lastly, at Paris. The pleasure of representing, in which she delighted, and the gaiety and sociable manner of living in France were so congenial to her natural disposition, that she never cast one longing, lingering look towards her native country. In truth she was as incapable of the feeling of affection as of those of hatred or dislike; she could extract entertainment even from folly and insipidity, and no company displeased her, but she really loved nobody. Yet, such was the fascinating power she

derived from her invariable good humour and vivacity, and the witty playfulness of her conversation, that to live with her in intimacy without becoming attached to her was impossible. Having, from a want of that prudence which seldom deserted her, incautiously engaged in a political intrigue at Turin, where she herself had never been, she was betrayed by a confidential Secretary of her husband, and one of her letters, in which, with all the force of her wit, she had ridiculed the characters of the King and Queen of Sardinia, was communicated to them. As a consequence, the Count was recalled in disgrace from his mission, and not feeling himself sufficiently clear from the imputed offence to accept the proffered leave to vindicate himself at Turin, he was banished for life to his estates in Savoy, where M^me^ de Viry, after a few years, died of an apoplexy occasioned by excessive corpulency.

From Miss Speed (afterwards Countess de Viry), to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Stoke, Oct^br^ y^e^ 26^th^*, 1755.

"I ASSURE you, Dear Lord Nuneham, your letter which arriv'd yesterday gave me the greatest pleasure, and you see I take the very first opportunity of returning you thanks for it, and of owning how very much asham'd I was at receiving so very

kind a reproof for my past neglect; but I am conscious my heart is not faulty in regard to you,

* * * * * *

"And, when I have beg'd your Pardon for this omission and promis'd that my future behaviour shall in this respect be irreproachable, I shall proceed to thank you a second time for your last, which entertained me excessively from the description you give of the people you have met with in your travells thro' Germany. I shou'd pitty any one but your-self from having herded with such a set of disagreable animals, but as the french say *Vous savez tirer parti de toute*, and their odditys and disagreableness furnish'd you always with matter of entertainment. I will now give you an account of my proceedings since I last wrote. Last Winter pass'd like the others, and with no difference in respect to my self but the not having the pleasure of seeing (and laughing with) you. Lady Cowper as usual had her musick of Sunday nights, and Miss Gilbert as usual *came curtseing in;* I then constantly thought of you and wish'd you amongst us.

* * * * * *

"I shall now tell you what became of me this summer. We staid in Town 'till the beginning of July and then went to Tunbridge, where we staid six weeks, I lik'd it excessively; it was a very full season and many agreable people there.

It is the fashion to divide into cotteries, and I was of a very jolly one, we had more men than women of it, as in general they are less troublesome and more entertaining. We constantly went out ev'ry morning in partys to see places, of which there are a great number of pretty ones *aux environs de Tunbridge*. I believe upon the whole I shou'd have liked better to have been there at the time Gramont gives us an account of it, had it been only for the pleasure of seeing Madame de Montsery dance with her delightfull hump; tho' we had many deform'd people there that chose to exhibit their personages when they had a convenient opportunity, which was constantly twice a week, and such dresses as wou'd have made you expire.

"There was a German Countess which I will venture to affirm out did any one you have met with in your travells. She is about seventy years old, but instead of having wrinkles, which people usually have at her time of day, her skin is stretch'd so excessively tight over her face that till you come near her she has no signs of old age, for she wares an immense deal of *rouge* or brick dust, and dresses as if she was sixteen; but when you come near her the skin is exactly like partchment, and I dare say she might sell her skin to morrow to any lawyer, tho', as she is not above 4 foot high, it wou'd not do for modern marriage settlements. She coquets beyond any

french actress you can have met with, and her admirers (or rather those she admires) behave with great caution not to disoblige her as she constantly goes with a loaded pistol in her pocket, and is capable of revenging a want of attention. She us'd to be with Lady Caroline Petersham, and they were quarrelling ev'ry day in the publick rooms about their men. This German creature was very fond of wheat-ears, a bird that is seldome heard of but at Tunbridge, and she wou'd eat two dozen of a morning for breakfast till she wou'd be so sick she wou'd be obliged to go home and take an emetic. Pray tell me if this does not equal or surpass any human creature you have met with.

* * * * * *

"Perhaps you have not heard a shocking circumstance relating to L^{y} Mary Capell (Lady Charlotte Hyde's sister), don't mention it to Lord Villiers because you know there is a close connection in that family. She was at Tunbridge when I was there, and always appear'd very jolly and rather in violent spirits, for she wou'd talk one to death; about a fortnight ago she was in our neighbourhood at M^{r}. Godolphin's, who lives about a quarter of a mile from Stoke; I then saw her, and she was in the same good spirits; from thense she went to Weybridge to an acquaintance there, and without any body's being able to account for it,

she cut all the veins in both her arms; her maid in the next room heard her groans, and upon going in found her weltering in blood, and she look'd up at her and said, 'I have done it at last.' They got all the help they cou'd, and it is thought she will recover.... The family give it out she had a fever and was delerious.

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"I suppose you have heard the rich M^{r}. Crowley who lived in Grosvenor Square shot himself. By his death an estate of eight thousand a year comes between his two fat maiden sisters, and they are now in ev'ry sense *two very great* matches; what do you think of y^{r} having one, and Lord Villiers the other; if you agree to it I will bespeak them against your return. Lord Euston and Miss Liddle are to be married the beginning of next month. I hope George West don't intend paying his addresses to *Lady Euston*, tho' he did to Miss Liddle. There are various characters given Lord Euston; some commend, but most disaprove and say, from his temper, Miss Liddle will be extremely unhappy; he seems very shy but very well bred. S^{r} John Bland has at last ended his good for nothing life, by stabing himself in France, where he was obliged to go to be at rest from his creditors. It is a melancholy thing to see people rush willfully into perdition; they have not the sense to act well, nor goodness enough to repent,

and they claim no body's pitty, as they never are of use to mankind while in the world.

"I have, I am affraid, quite tired your patience out, but before I conclude I must give you an account of an extraordinary phenomenon that has appear'd at my friend Mr. Garrick's, who by the by I am very angry at your abusing in the manner you do. I am really so tired of writing that to vary it a little I will tell it you in french, knowing I write equally *well* in both languages.

"Un Jeune boulanger de 22 ans se présenta depuis peu a Garrick pour se recommander a lui, qui lui répondit qu'il ne songeoit point a changer de boulanger étant très content de celui qui le servoit alors, . . . Je ne cherche point repondit le boulanger, à vous fournir de pain ; je n'ai que trop experimenté que je ne saurois gagner celui de ma famille a ce métier ; mais je viens pour être recêu dans vôtre troupe. Vous actez ? demanda Garrick ; et de quels rôles vous croiez vous capable ? c'est les vôtres, répondit le boulanger que j'ambitionerois le plus de jouer, et je voudrois commencer par celui de Richard 3. Pour celui la reprit Garrick en souriant, et le regardant de la tête aux pieds, dispensez-moi de vous le céder ; c'est mon rôle favori, et franchement il me fâcheroit qu'un autre m'y surpassât ; cependant pour me montrer ce que vous savez lire, voici la piece, lisez m'en une scéne.

"Je ne le puis, répondit le boulanger, car je ne sais ni lire ni écrire ; un aveu si inattendu fit glisser le livre dés mains de Garrick, qui voulut le mettre dehors par les epaules ; mais le jeune homme s'opiniatre à rester, le priant instament de l'essayer d'une autre façon ; et comment ? dit Garrick ; lisez, lui dit le boulanger, une scéne vous-même, et je le répèterai après vous. Aquoi Garrick voulut bien se prêter encore, moins par complaisance que par badinage ; et afin de rendre la moquerie plus complète il choisit exprès la scéne la plus difficile ; mais quand il eut achevé de la lire, le boulanger se mit à la réciter d'un bout à l'autre si correctement, et avec une proprieté d'action d'energie & de sentiment si supérieure, que Garrick en fut emerveillé, et dés l'instant l'engagea pour 5 ans à de gros gages.

"Is not this a marvellous incident. When I go to town and have seen him I will give you my opinion. I know people who have seen him, and whose judgment I pay a great defference to, that thinks him incomparable, I will now bid you adieu. Your Lordship was pleas'd to apologize for a very short entertaining letter you was so good to write me, I shou'd make excuses for the very reverse, for this is as long and stupid, but has the merit of coming from one who is very sincerely your faithfull

"friend and humble servant.

"Lady Cobham desires I wou'd make you a thousand fine speeches for your goodness in remembering her in your letters to me, and she sincerely wishes you ev'ry pleasure either trifling or essential that you think will conduce to y^{r} happiness. We are making great preparations for a war; they seem to be apprehensive here of an invasion, and they think there will be a camp form'd either in Sussex or Kent this winter. The affairs in Irland in regard to the Primate are now settled; he is for ever excluded being of the regency during the absence of the Lord Lieutenant — and I think struck out of the privy counsel, but tho' I am positive of the former I am not of the latter.

"The defeat of Gen^{ll}. Braddock in America gives ev'ry body great concern. Coll. Rich, who you must have heard carried M^{rs}. Rich over to Gibraltar with him, has lost her; she died in child-bed; they say he is inconsolable, but, as he is universally hated, no body seems to pitty him. I think I have wrote ev'ry word of news I cou'd muster up from the utmost force of resolution; once more adieu."

Letters from Hon. Miss West.

MISS WEST, Henrietta Cecilia, was born in 1730; she was the eldest surviving daughter of John, Lord Delawarr, who was created an Earl in 1761. She was witty and fond of society. George the Third and Horace Walpole always alluded to her as the 'divine Cecilia.' In 1763 she married Colonel Johnson, with whom she lived very happily. Selections from her letters are here printed. The freedom and ease with which she wrote made her correspondence very entertaining. A great deal of pruning, however, has been found necessary to suit the epistles for general reading.

Hon. Miss West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"I HOPE your Lordship will sup *chez nous ce soir*, tho' after your breakfast of *virtu* I expect you to prefer my father to me, as being of the two the most antique. I have sent to y^{e} cryer of the

parish in order to cry *what* I mention'd to yr Lordship I had several days miss'd, and begin to think lost; but as you are a better judge of the value of curiositys than I pretend to be, I beg to know what reward you think will be proper to offer."

Hon. Miss West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"Too be sure, my Lord, there are fine Ladys in this town who's Ideas would disturb your soft slumbers and make you leave your downy pillow earlier than you are wont to do, had you an appointment to meet them in a flower garden, and retire with them to a shady bower; but as I cannot flatter myself I can work such an operation on your Lordship half so certainly as a dose of rhubarb wou'd do, I conclude you will be as late as usual in your morning walk; therefore I desire you will be so good to call me at Mrs. Lyell's instead of my own house, from thence we will repair to the bower, where we will sit like Adam and Eve in their innocency, tho' the climate is totally against their dress; so that is quite out of the case, as your Lordship I presume will sit in your short great coat, & I in my fur cloak; however, don't be very late, because I dine out, & shall wish to dress in good time. Adieu.

"*Wednesday morning.*"

Hon. Miss West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"As it was the last night before you go hence, & are no more seen, I flatter'd myself your Lordship wou'd have given me an opportunity of wishing perfect health to you by word of mouth, and I wou'd join happiness to my wishes, were you & I so happy as to think that cou'd be found in a family party in the country; in short, my Lord, I am forced to have recourse to pen, ink, & paper, to assure you of my best wishes and concern that you are going. I am at present the more so, as I to day received the politest letter from our admir'd Mrs. Clive, to invite my sister, your Lordship, & myself to her cottage; we sent her word we wou'd wait on her next thursday, and sorry was I at the same time to inform her you was to depart this life to-morrow; *enfin* my Lord, I hope, since you are to go, that you think with Mr. Pope, that whatever is, is right, I wou'd fain be of that opinion, but 'tis in vain I attempt it, for I often feel that what is, is wrong; or at least if 'tis not so, Alas! I shou'd, in some points, like the wrong far better than the right.

"But, not to detain you about so uninteresting a theme as myself, believe me that I shall be happy to hear you are well, & not ill of that worst of indigestions call'd the country. Instead of Mattai's warbling strains, may Philomela's soft-

est notes charm your listening ear, may violets spring up where e'er you tread, and, ever studious of rural amusement, may you, my dear Lord, sometimes think of me. Adieu!

"*Monday night, past* 12 *o'clock.*"

Hon. Miss West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Wednesday Morn.*

"I RETURN your Lordship '*le Danger des Passions,*' without being in the least prejudiced more than before, either for or against them. I wou'd have sent it immediately to Ly Lyttleton but that, since she told you she thought me both disagreable & ill natured, I am grown cautious, & afraid, from the title of the book, she might also add I was witty, because to be sure she may read Sigr Fenduci over & over again without passion or the danger attending it. Mr. Spencer[a] was so good to tell me at Ly Hertford's I might have permission to use his Opera ticket sometimes, but I shall always be afraid to send to him for it, lest he shou'd think me horrid troublesome, or out of his extreme gallantry lend it me when he wants it; but I rely on you to find out if that's the case next Saturday, and as you are acquainted with my poverty, and my father's very very ungallant proceedings towards me, particularly in that particular, when Mr. Spencer seriously has no employment for it, to send it me instead of leaving it idle on his table.

[a] Afterwards Lord Spencer.

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"I am so offended at never seeing you, that I believe I shall poison Ly Hervey, Mrs. Anne Pitt, & all the old women in town, not excepting yr Grand Mother; for really since you have made your fur coat you fancy you have too much *temperament* to converse with any thing under sixty; I expect every day to hear you're marry'd to Ly Emily Butler, and that you have an intrigue with Madme Montandre. Pray, my Ld., weigh well in yr better judgement all I have said concerning the ticket, and if you find the least thing improper or presumptious I beg you not to mention a syllable about it. Adieu."

Lady Cecilia West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"HOW will you bear to read a poem wrote on the common sensations of human nature, after having supp'd and convers'd in the inhuman, platonick (may I say nonsensical) stile, with Ly Talbot? I hope tomorrow evening I shall see you, and then if you don't own the first 2 lines of the enclos'd poem put all her Ladyship's delicate rodomontade out of your head, I wish you may be doom'd to be ye Dorimant of hers, Lady Hervey's,

Madame Montandre's, & Mrs. Cleland's circles as long as you live. Adieu.

"*Thursday Evening.*"

Lady Cecilia West to Viscount Nuneham:—

"DEAR Visconti, if you have another book new or old to lend me I shall be glad. Pray tell Mrs. Chudleigh that I did intend being at Soho, and gave up both my ticket and partner as I was obliged to sup at Ld. Edgcumbe's to-night. Between you and I my father happen'd to be in an uncommon bad humour, and, as he never goes out of his bed chamber, he wonders I shou'd ever extend my plan of amusements farther; so he chose to fly quite into a passion at my prefering Soho to Ld. Edgcumbe's, for which reason (tho' all such galant proceedings are thrown away upon him) I gave up my ticket last night, and, which I more regreted, a charming man who had ask'd me to dance. To be sure those old fogrums at supper will make me amends!

"However, as Mrs. Chudleigh has the rage of this Soho, tell her this same supper alone prevented my being there. Oh! how I have been abused for going with her to the Opera, I was told I was the talk of the whole house, and she, upon my saying I thought many others as bad company, proved worse than all the worser I

cou'd name. In short, my Dear Ld., *dans ce malheureux monde* I find some few *agremens*, but more *disagremens* than you perhaps, from my natural vivacity, suspect me of feeling. Adieu.

"*Monday.*"

Lady Cecilia West to Viscount Nuneham:—

"'TIS now very certain that my charity is more predominant than my vanity, or I shou'd be tempted to wish your Lordship a continuance, or at least a relapse, of your sore-throat, since 'tis to that (I fear) I owe the honour of the most gallant, polite, and obliging note I ever read. Never did my lips inspire such things before! & if I had not heard from my cradle what Mr. Otway averrs, that men are by nature false, Heaven knows but I might, upon what your Lordship says, be trying the power of my lips, & *par bontè de cœur* prescribe them as a remedy for slight colds, but then, my Lord, suppose that when I cure a sore-throat I shou'd give ye more terrible disease of a surfeit? how shou'd I cure that? really I know a person ill at this time, and I fear a surfeit is the disorder; tho' I have had no hand in it I hope, for I had rather farr he was dead than hear he was sick of me, for, if the latter, I must hate him, and that's a sensation, *malgrè tout son adresse*, he has not yet taught my heart to feel for him.

"But to be serious, I am vastly glad you are better, and if 'tis true that y^r^ Lordship thinks me a good physician, I am certain I'd give my utmost skill to save you from a moment's pain. I hope you'll wrap y^r^ self up, & come hither this evening, for I shall be happy to see my patient. Adieu.

"*Monday*, 3 *o'clock*."

Lady Cecilia West to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Sheffield, July 14th*, 1761.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Amidst the tumults of the gay world, or the more tranquil joys of the country, I find I am equally and always sensible of any events that have the appearance of conveying either happiness or pleasure to you. From this motive I take the liberty of troubling you now, as I imagine you are, with the rest of the world, pleas'd that the king has made choice of Lord Harcourt to escourt our future Queen to England; I most sincerely congratulate your Lordship on this additional honor & mark of royal favor to your family, but did his Majesty see with my eyes he wou'd command Lord Harcourt not to take a certain velvet coat, in which you know I think he looks charmingly, for if the Princess shou'd be of my opinion she may look at the Ambassador till she forgets his Ambassy.

"I hope, if you have it in your power, you will be of this party, which I shou'd suppose you wou'd greatly prefer to going to Spa: and now self-love makes me hope you are not in London, because, in that case, this letter will appear to you in its proper light, most profoundly dull and stupid; but if you are studying the beautys of nature in retirement, that situation will be infinitely indulgent to my poor epistle; for a letter, I know from experience, goes for more than its real value in that situation. If you are so good to favour me with one from you, it will want no such rural assistance, yet I must caution you not in it to mention directly or indirectly a word, nor even a hint, of a certain Colonel, nor even the smallest joke about the country; for one of the amusements here is to have the post bag brought into the room, and all the letters taken out of it with his Lordship's own hands; then that from you will be read round the table, and any thing you might say on the two themes I have forbid, I shou'd be punish'd for, as here they are equally articles of high treason.

"If I had the honor of being in a regular correspondence with your Lordship I believe I shou'd try to contrive that neither the inside or outside of your letter shou'd be perused; but for once it is not worth while to trouble you with a scheme

of ingenuity for that purpose, and, besides, I am at this minute too sleepy to invent one. I have one advantage over our favourite Mrs. Millamant, which is that I love walking instead of loathing it because it's a country diversion, & I walk so far every day that I fancy if Mr. Shaftoe was advertis'd of it, he wou'd train up some cow and bet a thousand it wou'd beat me three times round Newmarket course, in so many hours, minutes, and seconds; but having laid no wager myself to weary your patience beyond recovery, I will release you with the assurance of my being, with the truest esteem & regard,

"My Dear Lord,

"Your most Obliged and Devoted Sert,

"CECILIA WEST."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Park Place, July 27th*, 1762.

"I HAVE wish'd for a cool day on every account, & particularly that I might thank your Lordship for your last letter, for when the weather's hot I really cannot write a line. We think you have as much wit as Lord Chesterfield, & write as well as Mr. Pope; at the same time we allow Lady Harrington not the likest thing in the world to Diana, nor Lady Edgcumbe to Venus, my Father to a feather, or Lady Northumberland to the three

Graces. Potavo, tho' she vows you are grown *of late* extremely impudent, yet will deign to accept of some franks from you, and I shall be extremely obliged to you for a dozen; but pray put them in separate parcells lest we shou'd quarrel. Ly Ailesbury and I still expect you, & come you must, but pray come into the room gently, for it's so long since I saw any thing in men's cloaths that a surprise of that kind might make me miscarry; yet I assure you we pass our time very pleasantly, and divert ourselves with Potavo's disagreableness. I beg you to come soon, I fancy you grudge giving us so much pleasure as we shall have from seeing you, for to be sure you are not always obliged to stay at home because Lord Harcourt has company. I am *au desespoir* at hearing Lord Cowper has a confirm'd dropsy, and is in great danger.

"This sheet of paper, shabby as it is, is the best I have, so pray, my Dear Lord, excuse it, and believe me

"Your most

"affectionate Humble Servant,

"C. JOHNSTON."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*London, October y^e 5th*, 1765.

"MY LORD,—As probably we shall leave England before you return to London, and therefore

I shall not have the pleasure of seeing you, I flatter myself your Lordship will allow me this method of offering you my congratulations upon your marriage, with my most sincere wishes for your happiness. As I have not the honour to be known to Lady Nuneham, if ever you mention me to her, your Lordship will do me the justice to name me, I hope, with those who have the highest esteem for you, as well as amongst those of your longest acquaintance. I have the vanity to hope that you now and then will favour me with a letter, as I am confident it will bring me the assurance of your being more in love with Hymen and Lady Nuneham than ever you were with all the Arts and Sciences you devoted your self to before.

"Adieu, my Dear Lord,

"believe me, with great truth,

"Your Lordship's

"most affectionate Humble Servant,

"CECILIA JOHNSTON."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*London, June 5th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I have ten thousand thanks to return you for the picture, which, as I think it very like, you may be sure is highly valued by me. I have scarcely recover'd the fatigue of the

birthday. I went to Court at one o'clock, and did not get home till six, tho' you may believe I got away amongst the first. Their Majestys did not come into the Drawing Room till about three, and the crowd was prodigious! I believe indeed it was wholly composed of *Bon Ton*, because they were very rude, ill bred, and uncivil; such pushing and crowding was never equal'd! I had the honor of several of these fine Ladys upon my back, and, if I had not been taller than most, they wou'd, I conclude, have stepp'd over my head; but, being an able-bodied person, I kept my ground pretty well.

"In our days such a crowd, tho' their pedagrees had come from Adam, wou'd have been a little unsavory, but really, thanks to the delicacy of the modern beaus, and their nosegays, we breathed nothing but perfume. As the time of year did not admit of finery, the *Quality* had only an opportunity of displaying their taste and judgement in variety of fancy dresses. Lord Harrington's pleased me the most, both as to the happy mixture of colours, & the propriety of his wearing them. It was a pea green watered tabby, embroider'd with colours, turned up with pink; and a pink waistcoat.

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"I went yesterday at six in the morning to a review at Darford, where I saw your brother upon

a prancer; dined at the Green Man on Black Heath; walk'd in Greenwich Park, but did not roll down the Hill; and went at night in masque to Mrs. Pulteney's. There were some few excellent figures, 2 in particular quite charming, a Macaroni, and an Ass, the latter I took for Ld. Edgcumbe for some little time, and was sorry it was not him.

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"Ever studious of rural amusements I am going next week to Bolderwood. Do write to me, I long to have your thoughts upon agriculture. My General desires his best compliments to your Lordship. I beg mine to Lady Nuneham; believe me with the truest esteem, my Dear Lord,

"Your most

"Obliged Humble Servant,

"H. C. JOHNSTON.

"I shall send this to Leicester House, as it's quite a secret to me where you are. I charge you to write to me, and I shall desire the same favor from you when I return to Minorca."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Hampton, Sept. 11th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . I was happy to see Lady Harcourt the other day at the Drawing Room looking very well indeed, & finding time

to be extremely gracious & obliging to me, tho' she seem'd to have a great deal of business on her hands at that moment. It seems to me that I have been in another country from having travell'd so many miles to and from Mount Edgcumbe. To be sure when you get there it repays all the frights and fatigue, for its situation beggars all description!

"The Duke of Saxe Gotha appear'd charm'd with all he saw, & well indeed he might, for his reception there was magnificent. As I am not particularly fond of these kind of partys, I was brushing off the instant I heard he was coming, tho' persuaded to stay by their earnest entreatys not to leave them alone when most they wanted company; in short, it would have been as dull as grandure cou'd make it, if dear Lord E. had not had recourse to his usual fun. Your Lordship wou'd have laugh'd to have seen him put on his sword, and my Lady her largest hoop, and then with her very best curtsey go to the steps of the house door to receive these folks. The Duke was in a blue frock, and there was a dismal looking man with a bald head in a very old dirty brown coat, and boots, by name Count Bruhl; and lastly the strangest ill looking Italian-man his Highness had found in London, and who was by trade an astrologer, or an astronomer; a star I never saw him look at, beyond that Count Bruhl wore on his

coat; and whether he made almanacks, or calculated our nativitys, I know not; however, the Duke was extremely polite, and is a well inform'd sensible man, & has written to them a very civil letter since, expressing his thanks for their great attentions to him.

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"'Heaven first taught letters for the wretches' aid,' says every miss when she writes to her favourite swain, but as you are neither a banish'd lover, nor a captive maid, I dread your Lordship's displeasure at being every now and then bombarded with a dull letter from me. The truth is I cannot endure the idea of being forgot by you, or huddled in the heap of your common acquaintance, while I possess the warmest friendship and attachment for you, & value myself in the taste and judgement of being your Lordship's

"faithful & devoted
"humble servant,
"H. CECILIA JOHNSTON."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Hampton, Novr. 20th*, 1790.

"I HAVE heard that Baron Munchausen, the Hanoverian minister, said on an occasion that carry'd no shame with it, *J'ai honte a mon age*, &, to be sure, was there no love without being

in love, I would say so of myself, for all the anxiety & fright I suffer'd during the idea of your lordship's accident did plainly indicate I loved you very much, of which love I am not ashamed, for it is as pure as those spirit of wine flames that burn on the opera altars. I hope Mr. Haggitt excuses my having written to him, as dear Lady Harcourt was the last I should have thought of troubling when so melancholy an event was my theme. My general, not being much of a fribble, I must do that justice to his feelings as to tell you that when I had the happiness to receive your letter his eyes fill'd with tears on finding you was safe & well. I have heard of a man bewitching another man's wife, but your lordship, I think, bewitches the wife & husband into the bargain. . . ."

Lady Cecilia Johnston to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Hampton Court, Middlesex, Sept. 7th.*

"I CAN never sufficiently thank my dear Lord and my dear Lady Harcourt for their kind inquiry after my health. Thank God I have not been ill, tho' yesterday was the first day I have really been able to walk since I left Nuneham, & still it is a stately strut, rather like the late Lord Harrington than the hobble of Jack Harris. Nothing but my modesty & humility prevented my

answering your lordship's last kind letter before now; first, it appears impertinently vain to suppose you wou'd like I should write to you too often, because your etiquette and politeness makes you immediately answer letters; I have frequently heard you say you hate writing, and I am sure your own invented tiny paper proves it; for, well as you write, you treat me with no more lines than if I was a tell-tale, or that, like a true courtier, you was writing to my Lord Chamberlain [b] to beg a copy of his poetick works. Is not this true, my dear Lord? Now mark the difference between us: I detest, hate, & abhor writing, nevertheless, when it is to you, as frequently as I dare, I scratch and scrawl a large sheet of paper without fear, or wit, with all the nonsense that enters my poor head.

"The Duchess of Gloucester inquired cordially after you both; she has been ill of St. Anthony's fire, poor soul! that, and a sea coal fire are the only fires that approach her royal person. The Duke did me the honor a few evenings since to drink tea, & pass two hours with me in this my miserable cabin, & besides, sent me a side of venison.

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"Lady Derby writes me word she is again

[b] Lord de la Warr, who used to dabble in poetry with the maids of honour.

breeding, and desires me very much to find out whether or not the Duchess of Wirtemberg is in the same way, so I conclude she has got some superstition in her head, as they both at the same time last year were in the same danger, in the same cause. Adieu! my dear lord; Jane's respects, with my ardent love, attend you both; and with the most unfeign'd attachment I am

"Your ever grateful & affectionate

"CECILIA."

Letters from Hon. John West.

THE two following letters were written by the Hon. John West, eldest son of Lord de la Warr. He was born in 1729, and in 1756 married Mary, daughter of General Whynyard; he succeeded his father, as 2nd Earl de la Warr, in 1766, and died in 1777.

From the Hon. J. West to Viscount Nuneham :—

"My Dear Lord,— . . . I often have thought of you in the hot weather, & fancyd it must be very agreable for country visits, & a fine topic of conversation while the country lady sips her tea. It has been intolerable at Fulham, but then we can loll about on the sopha & play at loo at our ease. I won't, however, make your mouth water. M^rs^. West presents her compliments & begs you to accept her pity. I met M^r^. Arding a few days ago with M^rs^. Spencer[a] at Reynolds', I really am not in the least surpriz'd at your dislike to him: I think, in my life, I never saw so vulgar & so familiar a forward fellow; really worse than you had describ'd him. Reynolds' picture, by the by,

[a] Afterwards Countess Spencer.

is charming, almost as well as Wilson could have done.

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"Adieu, my dear Lord, let me hear how you away with the Country, & believe me your Lordship's

"Sincere Friend & Servant,
"J. West.

"*June* 26, 1759."

The Hon. J. West to Viscount Nuneham:—

"My Dear Lord,—Your stay in the country at this time is not only disagreable to your friends in Queen Street, but likewise astonishing; every body but y^r^ L^dshp^ kiss'd the King's hand to-day, & I expected that your form & punctilio would have brought you there before any body, especially as you formerly had the King's ear, & would now be glad to be near it. You don't surely pretend to be frumptious at being left out of the last nomination, for at that time he was not his own master. Now he is, & I as your friend would have you be in the way. Consider, my Lord, how many disagreable things may happen to you before you are enabled to take things ill, & how agreably it is in a King's power to make one live in the mean time. Forgive this advice & reprimand, as from a friend. I am sure no-

thing but picque can keep you now from court, & I shall be very angry, as well as the King, if you don't post up to town directly, as every body else has done. Mrs. Spencer is of my opinion. The Country must grow shockingly dull, especially to you. There is no expence of a birth day suit to frighten you, & the only extraordinary expence will be Mrs. West's loo table; Miss West, by the bye, is turn'd gamester with us.

"As you flatter me with the approbation of my letters, I am in great hopes you will approve of this, & that *mes pensès* will bring you to town. You need not be alarm'd at hearing that the price of black cloth is raised, for my old friend the Spanish brown will do admirably well. You may write to my sister to condole with her on Johnston's losing the tip of his finger in the late action; not that I believe she is sorry, I should rather think, glad; for as her love, or whatever you please to call it, is governed by vanity, this will flatter that passion, & if he can write to her with three fingers she will be vastly pleased at his having lost the fourth. Don't tell her I say so, for unless some accident should carry off the tip of her tongue, her ears are not safe places to deposit secrets in, & Johnston's the sort of man to run one thro' the body even if he had lost both arms.

"We had our Christening yesterday, & the poor child is called by the frightfull name of Thomas,

almost as bad a name as Simon! . . . . . Adieu.

"My Dear Lord,

"Ever your Friend,

"J. WEST.

"*Tuesday, October 28th*, 1760."

Poem by Earl de la Warr.

EARL DE LA WARR to the Maids of Honour :—

"Ye Maids who Britain's Court bedeck,
Miss Wrottesley, Beauclerc, Tyron, Keck,
Miss Meadows, and Boscawen;
A dismal tale I have to tell,
This is to bid you all farewell—
Farewell! for I am going.
I leave ye, girls, indeed 'tis true,
Although to be esteemed by you
Has ever been my pride;
'Tis often done at Court you know,
I leave my dearest friends, and go
Over to t'other side.—
No longer shall we laugh and chat
In th' outward room on this or that,
Untill the Queen shall call.
Our gracious King has called me now,
Nay, holds a stick up too, I vow;
And so—God bless you all.
They tell me that one word a day
From him is worth the whole you say,
Fair ladies, in a year;
A word from him I highly prize,
But who can leave your beauteous eyes
Without one tender tear?

No longer now shall I be seen
Standing along our matchless Queen,
So gracious, good, and kind;
When one by one each smiling lass,
First drops a curt'sey as we pass,
Then trips along behind.—
Adieu my much-loved golden key,
No longer to be worn by me,
Adorned with ribband blue;
Which late I heard look ill and pale,
I thought it but an idle tale,
But now believe 'twas true.
Farewell my good Lord Harcourt too,
What can, alas, your lordship do
Alone with all the maids?
You soon must some assistance ask
You'll have, I think, an arduous task
Unless you call for aid.—
Great is the charge you have in care,
Indeed, my pretty maidens fair,
His situation's nice;
As chamberlain, we shall expect
That he, sole guardian, shall protect
Six maids without a Vice[a]."

[a] Lord de la Warr was Vice-Chamberlain.

Poem by Hon. Charles Townshend.

THE Hon. Charles Townshend was second son of Charles, third Viscount Townshend. He was elected Member for Yarmouth in 1747, and afterwards represented the borough of Harwich. In 1749 he was made a Commissioner of the Board of Trade; in 1751 he was sent as secretary to an "Extraordinary" Embassy to Spain, and in the same year he was appointed a Lord of the Admiralty; in 1756 he became Treasurer of the king's chamber, and a Privy Counsellor; in 1761 he was made Secretary at War. He married in 1755 Lady Caroline, eldest daughter and co-heir of John, Duke of Argyle and Greenwich, and widow of Francis, Earl of Dalkeith: by her he had two sons. Charles Townshend distinguished himself both in the senate and the cabinet by his eloquence and judgment. It was said of him that he knew how to be a patriot without prejudice and a placeman without dependence. He was likewise endowed with all the accomplishments which adorn private life.

The Maids of Honour's answer to Earl de la Warr. Written by the Hon. Charles Townshend:—

"To you, great Earl of de la Warr,
We Maids at Court indite,
To tell you that it made us stare,
That you on us should write:
No fairer subject could you find?
We greatly fear your lordship's blind.

"But perfect beauty to bestow
Without one grace or feature!
The task is hard we all must know
And you're a wondrous creature.
In magic art you far out do
Both Janus' skill and Comus' too.

"Our thanks, dear poet, then receive
From every grateful maid;
Ah! would his readers then believe
The truth of all he said?
Who with poetic power supplies
The lustre wanting in our eyes.

"We can't enough reward your care,
Though well 'tis understood;
For, if you had not called us fair,
No other mortal would.

Oh! matchless tale of virgins nice,
Six maids embellished by their Vice!

"Lord Harcourt, too, has nought to fear
From maids so chaste and coy;
Our very aspect cries forbear
To every thought of joy.
We're well protected from all harms—
The best protection—want of charms.

"When to each maid of honour's train,
Their late admired Vice-chamberlain
Put forth his last adieu,
By artless strains the pensive peer
From every eye the chrystal tear
Of fond remembrance drew.

"They called to mind his happy power
T'amuse the heavy ling'ring hour,
So often past in waiting;
While foreign or our home affairs,
Some private schemes, or public cares,
The great ones were debating.

"With cheerful chat or easy rhyme
His lordship could beguile the time,
And keep six maidens quiet:
That all are virtuous, some are fair,
This muse affirms, let others dare
With peril to deny it.

"Yet late advanced a daring bard
That want of charms was virtue's guard,
Or, be it understood,
Not all his lordship's watchful care,
Had nature made these maidens fair,
Could e'er have kept 'em good.

"Begone, vile slave, their beauty needs
No guard of dragon-watch; the seeds
Of virtue, their defence,
Have armed them ever to withstand
All fell desires, and the rash hand
Of bold incontinence.

"But come, my fair ones, and attend;
Trust me, I fain would be your friend,
And yet despair to please ye;
Keep the fond stripling from your lips,
The youth who once the honey sips
Will ever after tieze ye.

"Brudenel, sincere I give you joy,
For other cares your mind employ;
There's difference between
Your present and your former sport,
'Tis pleasant to be well at Court,
Standing along the Queen.

"My maids be happy in your Bob,
He, terror of the rainbow mob,

Has courage to defend ye;
Be but yourselves, be chatty still,
Nor toss the head—and Brudenel will
With chearfulness attend ye."

Letters from Thomas Pitt.

THE writer of the two letters which follow was Thomas Pitt, whose father was elder brother of the first Earl of Chatham; he was born in 1737, and in 1774 married Anne, daughter of P. Wilkinson, Esqr. He was created Baron Camelford of Bacconoc, in the County of Cornwall, in 1784.

Thomas Pitt, Esqr., to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Plymouth, Feb. 28th*, 1760.

"MY DEAR LORD,—We are got so far in our way to Lisbon, which by the time & fatigue it has cost us, I should hope were the better half of the journey. Certainly never creature suffer'd so much as I have undergone on board the Windsor. Want of sleep & sustenance have been the least of my complaints. Whatever you have experienced in all the different illnesses of your life must be combined to form to you an idea of Sea Sickness, to which you must add stenches, noises, & the confinement of a prison, & believe me you will still fall short of the felicity I have experienced. The whole day stretch'd upon a couch, groaning, vomiting, expiring, the night toss'd at

the mercy of the waves in a suspended bed they call a cot, with guns screaming, cocks crowing, & the watch trampling over my head. Judge, therefore, with what glee I once more embraced my mother earth at my arrival at this place. At the sight of the dear barren rocks of Cornwall my heart leapt with joy. The most desart dreary heath seemed to be a garden of paradise, but when the boat carried me close by the verdure of Mount Edcumbe, when I exhaled the refreshing breezes of the land, & when I set my foot upon dry ground, what words can express the pleasure I received. Indeed, my Lord, they give us a very faint representation of a voyage at the haymarket, when the illustrious heroine is handed out of her barque to the measure of soft symphony; they come up much more to the original in the transparent scene of last winter, where the ships are toss'd upon the waves, & bulg'd upon the rocks, where lightning, thunder, cannon, storm, & tempest, reign in universal anarchy.

"The day we went on board at Spithead the weather was extremely rough; we were received with the news that the long boat & ten men had set out in the night, & were probably gone to the bottom; that the Ramilies was split upon the rocks, & all her crew lost, as it was imagined was the fate of Mr. Boscawen's ships, & another that they heard had perished; & finished their narration with a little private anecdote that they laid no great stress upon, of a woman the day before who had contrived to let drop the infant at her breast into the sea as she was stepping from the ship into the boat. This reception you may imagine prepared me for whatever might succeed. I cast a longing look towards the shore, the sails were hoisted, & we committed ourselves to the care of Providence.

"The day before we came into Plymouth we had the good fortune to descry a miserable privateer, which we fired several shot at, & chased for some hours. In the midst of the pursuit I was conducted to the cabin window, where I beheld a poor sailor of our ship (methinks I see him at this instant) struggling with the waves, & endeavouring to save his wretched life by seizing a little boat that had been thrown out after him for his preservation. He bore himself up with incredible strength, a poor old man upwards of threescore. At last the wished for boat was wafted to him, & we could discern him lay his hands upon it; but immediately the sea, which ran very high, broke over him or drove him from us, so that from that moment we saw him no more. This accident, however, proved fortunate to the privateer, who got ground of us in this interval, & by that means effected her escape.

"The number of sea officers makes our abode

here very agreable ; we dined yesterday with a small party of about forty, who, you may imagine, made themselves very good company before we parted.

"I expect to sail again to-morrow, tho' I hear the wind howl against the windows at this moment, & the sea was so rough to-day that it was impossible to get even to our ship in the sound. If I escape drowning, dying of the sea sickness, or of Captain Cleveland, who is still more insupportable, &, after all my dangers, arrive safe at Lisbon, you may expect to hear further from me. In the mean time this will afford you a tolerable specimen of my miseries, at least enough to make you rejoice by your fire side if you are wise, & not tempt fortune to throw you into such difficulties as I am involved in. Adieu, my dear Lord, remember me as

"Your very affectionate friend & Servant,

"THOS. PITT."

From Thomas Pitt, Esqr., to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Lisbon, March 24th*, 1760.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I would willingly give you some idea of the strange inhabitants of this strange land, but the subject is so copious there is no knowing which of their particularities to begin with. However, to begin orderly with the beginning; the instant they are born they are put in

cradles which, instead of rocking from side to side, pitch from head to foot length ways, in the manner of that useful piece of machinery, a hobby horse. As soon as they are trusted to crawl upon the floor, their first effort, I am assured, is to go backwards, which has such an effect upon them in that tender state as to occasion the retrograde disposition which they retain thro' their whole lives. This circumstance I mention for your Lordship's information, that you may know what caution is necessary to be used, when, with a blessing on your endeavours, you may become the respectable father of a family.

"The weather here is extremely hot, even at this season, & must, in the summer, be intolerable, for which reason the natives of all ranks accustom themselves to wear great heavy thick cloaks, which they wrap round, throwing the lappet over one shoulder, that you would think yourself in the depths of Russia; people indeed of any fashion are never suffer'd to use their legs, not even in a morning, but are drawn about by mules, which cost 60 *moidores* apiece perhaps, & look worse than many of our hackney horses, in a machine which would, in England, bear the name of gig-tumbril, or booby-hutch, being a two wheel'd chaise with leather curtains, for which you pay more than the hire of a genteel London chariot. When you receive your company, & have con-

ducted them to their seats, instead of sitting in the next seat to them, a chair is brought from the other end of the room, & placed *vis á vis*, so that you sit with your knees together, which you must take care not to cross upon any account. In going in a chaise you must take particular care to give the right hand to your companion, by which means it often happens you get into a lady's chaise before her & draw her up after you. The ladies are such animals in bronze as I never saw, they want for beauty, eyes, skin, & features ; they have nothing to boast but teeth, & hair which is extremely fine, & of a length that would surprise you, but so pasted, powder'd, & dress'd, as makes it rather a nuisance than a beauty.

"A *Condessa* was here the other day dress'd in a sort of English nightgown[a], without a hoop, a great white apron, & very fine in jewels: a large butterfly of diamonds, I am sure as large as my hand, stuck flat upon her belly. They are now in deep mourning, that is a black velvet gown, with a vest & petticoat of white satin, flower'd silk, or what they please, with ribbands, jewels, &c., just according to their capprice. They have no settled mode of dress except at court, when they all wear hoops, & gowns, & petticoats. The men upon great occasions are not suffer'd to wear bags, but

[a] Evening-dress, called a nightgown in those days.

have wigs, or their own hair flowing upon their backs, which is a sore distress to me who intend appearing at the Queen's birthday. The King of Portugal received his first audience, after his father's death, in a suit of black full trim'd. There is no circle, or court days here ; but upon days of *gala*, when foreign ministers receive audiences, they are admitted one by one to make speeches, after which the subjects kiss the hand. There is no spectacle or amusement of any sort, but an Oratorio, which is a very private & very indifferent concert, the chorus consisting of three voices, &, I believe, the Orchestra of twice as many hands.

"Very well, my Lord, the pacquet come in & not one syllable from your Lordship. I know who are answerable for this negligence, but if I were near I would beat them black & *blue* for it, for all that. However, don't think to go on so, for hear from you I must, & therefore I beg you will go to bed early to-night, & be called by times to-morrow morning on purpose. By half an hour after 12 at furthest, I commission the Swiss to make his appearance, & as I know he is a favorite, I trust you will not set your great dog at him.

"Good bye to you, write, write, write,

"most sincerely yours,

"T. P.

"*Si je ne m'en repent pas? Assurement je n'ai que trop de cause.*"

Thomas Pitt on the English :—

" Brave in the field, in council they are tools ;
Make war like lions, & make peace like fools."

Letter from the Earl of Chesterfield.

PHILIP, 4th Earl of Chesterfield, was born in 1695, and succeeded his father in 1726. He commenced his public life as member successively for the boroughs of St. Germain and Lostwithiel. During his father's life-time he was appointed a Lord of the Bed-chamber to George the Second, then Prince of Wales. On the accession of that king to the throne, Lord Chesterfield was sent in 1728 as Ambassador Extraordinary to Holland; there he remained two years, and, on his return to England, was created a Knight of the Garter; his next appointment was as Steward of the King's Household; in a few months, however, he returned to his embassy in Holland; after serving there for a second term of two years, he again came back to England, and in 1745 became Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

During the King's absence abroad Lord Chesterfield was nominated one of the Lords-justices to govern the kingdom. In 1746 he

was sworn one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. He married Melosina, Countess of Walsingham and Baroness Alborough in her own right, but died without issue, March 24, 1773.

The Earl of Chesterfield to the Hon. Anne Pitt:—

"*Bath, March 16th*, 1761.

"MADAM,—I should have been very happy in obeying Madame Heraut's orders, especially since countersigned by you, her Queen; but as she applys very properly to the sister of one Secretary of State, and the friend of the other, you surely apply very improperly to one unknowing, and now unknown. I know not who are Ministers, and who are not so, and my usuall informers, the newspapers, give me very little light into those matters. In short, *Je ne tiens plus a rien*, and it is some years since any mortal has been wretched or ignorant enough to ask for my interest. I know Monsieur de Bougainville, and wish him very well, but I must own that his request is a very extraordinary one; in truth it is no more nor no less than this: Monsieur Bougainville took an engagement, some time ago, not to kill or maim any English, for a certain term, but

now thinking that term rather too long, and that he may perhaps lose some preferrment by so tedious a suspension of homicide, desires to be released from that engagement.

"I have been boiling here six weeks to very little purpose, for I have neither found the Bath to be Medea's kettle, nor the pump to contain *les eaux de Jouvence*. I suspect that I am some years too late for those benefits, so shall return to London next week, and there quietly expect the dissolution of my shattered carcase, which I am grown very weary of; while it does last it will always retain that esteem and respect with which I am

"Your most obedient
"humble servant,
"CHESTERFIELD."

From the Bishop of Carlisle[a] to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*London, Jany. 31st*, 1763.

"MY dear Lord Nuneham does me a great deal of honour in consulting me on a point wherein your lordship is so good a judge, & consequently in no want of my assistance; however,

[a] Dr. Charles Lyttleton, F.R.S., was President of the Society of Antiquaries. He was consecrated Bishop of Carlisle 1762, in the room of Dr. Osbaldeston translated.

least your lordship sh[d] think me inattentive to your commands, I have thrown y[e] inscription into somewhat a different form, though I think it in no respect better than your own.

"Your lordship is quite right in doubting whether a K[nt] Templar could marry, for *celibacy* was one of y[e] vows that was never dispensed with in that Order of men. This is one, among other reasons, that proves many of y[e] cross-leg'd figures we find in our churches to be improperly styled monuments of K[ts] Templars; whereas, in fact, they are y[e] monuments of those who had taken upon them *the cross*, and actually went, or vow'd to go, to y[e] Holy Land, and who are call'd by some authors *K[ts] of y[e] Holy Voyage.*

"I have some doubt whether y[e] order of K[ts] Templars commenced so early as Hen. I[st] time, but any common history of Eng[d] would ascertain this point. The word *Sir* prefix't before y[e] name of a Knight, I believe, is not near so antient as the time of this Robert de Harcourt, therefore I have ventured to leave it out in y[e] inscription. . . .

"Believe me, my Dear Lord,
"with great Esteem & Respect,
"Your most Obed[t]
"Humble Ser[t],
"CHA. CARLISLE.

"The old way of writing Camvill is undoubtedly without y[e] vowel *e* at y[e] end.

"The Manor of Stanton came into the family of Harcourt by the marriage of Rob. de Harcourt, Knt. (temp. Hen. I.), with Isabella, daughter & heir of Rich[d] de Camvill, by Milicent his wife, near kinswoman of the said K. Hen. I[st], which Milicent had a royal grant of the same. It has now [1763] remain'd in the possession of the Harcourts above 600 years, and from them assumed the name of Stanton Harcourt."

Letters from Viscount Villiers.

GEORGE BUSSEY VILLIERS was the second son of William Villiers, third Earl of Jersey. On the death in 1742 of his elder brother, Frederick William, he became Viscount Villiers, being at that time seven years of age. When his uncle was created Lord Hyde in 1756 Lord Villiers succeeded him as representative of the borough of Tamworth. He was again elected for that place in 1761, and was appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty in the same year. He, however, resigned the post in 1763, and in 1765 he was sworn of the Privy Council and made Vice-chamberlain to the king. In 1769 he inherited his father's titles and estates, and in 1770 he married Frances, daughter and heir of Dr. Philip Twisden, Bishop of Rapho in Ireland.

From Viscount Villiers to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Middleton Park, July 23rd*, 1764.

"DEAR NUNEHAM,—I think you have hinted something in a letter to Mr. Whitehead of a promise from me to write to you; now I own no such thing, & your *lordship* (which I had almost forgotten) must take this letter quite as a volunteer, & as an *excés de bonté de ma part*—I do not see why I should not lard with french as well as other people!

"You must let me wish you joy of your sister[a], &c. There is no possibility of sending you any thing that will entertain you from hence; besides, Mr. Whitehead writes upon all the topics which are proper for a *bel esprit* like your lordship (or as you would be thought to be), so that it would be impertinent in me to intrude a single word in such discourses; I do not even dare to mention the name of Voltaire, but with the greatest distance & submission. I shall confine myself then to plain matters of fact, & think myself very happy if geniuss will condescend now & then to such humble prose. But what are you doing in London all this while? Caudle must have been over long ago, & all propriety or necessity of your staying. The Guerchys too have left you, & the *cher* Allonville; and you can do nothing now but sit by your self & be out of humor all the day; you would be much better at Nuneham, & then you might come over here.

* * * * * *

[a] Lady Elizabeth Harcourt's marriage to Sir W. Lee is here referred to.

"The Spencers, I hear, are come to Spa, & all perfectly well. You have no thoughts I suppose of going over to them; money is as necessary upon that road as any other. By the bye I am quite ashamed that I have omitted to condole with you upon the loss of one of the Harcourts. It was a very unhappy accident, & as your lordship was so intimate with him, to be deprived of a friend in so unpleasant a manner must have given you much uneasiness. My compts of condolence are a little late, but I hope you will accept them.

"For this long letter I expect a very long answer with much news; in Grosvr Square they will tell you where to direct to me.

"I am,

"Dear Nuneham,

"Yours most sincerely,

"VILLIERS."

From Viscount Villiers to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Middleton Park, July 4th*, 1765.

"MY DEAR LORD,—When you were so good to take the first moment after your landing at Dieppe to let me know of your safe arrival in France, to be sure I ought not to have delayed so long giving you some little news from hence. But in truth your letter arrived when the whole world, I

mean the London world, was in the utmost confusion. Politics you may be sure were the occasion, & in a few words I will give you the sum total. Overtures were again made to Mr. Pitt, & for about ten days the whole seemed to advance so prosperously, that a general change was looked upon by every body to be most certain. But Ld Temple refused to accept, which prevented Mr. P. from coming in, & so every thing has fallen to the ground; we are as we were. What that state precisely is, perhaps may not be so easily defined, nor shall I say a word more upon the subject; but I thought as this affair has made so much noise here, & you may hear something of it where you are, my just touching upon it would not put you greatly out of humor.

"Guerchy was so obliging the other day to inform me of your having proceeded as far as Rome. He said nothing indeed of custom house officers, but I dare say they have continued the same civility wherever you have been; nor is it at all surprising when you travel with so much Harcourt about you!

* * * * * *

"I have been travelling about between London & Wimbledon & the environs ever since you went till my coming hither, where I find every thing in the usual state; my Father with a good deal of gout, & Mr. W.[b] grumbling & complaining of his

[b] Mr. Whitehead.

stomach, &c., putting on his boots to ride, but finding some excuse to avoid it; he says he would have written to you if he had known how to direct; that difficulty I have now removed, so that he has no excuse left.

"How do you like the famous Mad^me^ de Lillebonne[c]? I am told she will make you scamper after her on horseback or you will not be at all in her good graces. I shall expect a full account of the whole establishment at Har.[d], and I hope you have given to them, as the family who have a right to know it, the most minute description of the person of the *future*[e], every little rise & swelling about her. By the bye, if by accident, in the course of my rambles, she should fall in my way would you have me say or do anything for you in your absence? I am ready to obey all your commands. Mad^me^ de Benthem desired me to let you know that she was proceeding with the jewels, & that they advanced happily.

"You know our life at this place, & will therefore expect no news.

"Adieu, do not come home too great a coxcomb, tho' I think there is scarcely room left for any addition or increase.

"Ever yours most sincerely,

"V."

[c] Daughter-in-law of the Duc de Harcourt. [d] Harcourt.
[e] Lord Nuneham was at this time engaged to be married.

The Viscount Villiers to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Wimbledon Park, July 25th*, 1766.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have delayed some days thanking you for your last letter from Spa, because I had a mind to make mine the more welcome to you by giving you the information of such a change in public affairs as would be very much to your satisfaction, that I can now do; tho' there has been no kissing hands yet matters are in such forwardness that I may with great safety congratulate with you upon it as being done. The first important places which are to begin the work are as follows. The D. of Graf. to be First Lord of the Treasury, M^r^. Conway & L^d^ Shel., Secties. of State, Lord Camden, Chancellor, & the present Chan^r^ President of the Council, and M^r^. Pitt, Privy Seal; Chas. Town. is talked of as Chan^r^ of the Exchequer, but that seems yet uncertain.

"The great work being thus begun, what other changes there may be afterwards will be of less importance to the public, and cannot be known yet, as they will depend greatly upon those whose personal connexions may put them under an imaginary necessity of resigning, of which I should think there would not be many, & I say imaginary necessity, because it appears to me that

a recollection of the state of things this time twelvemonth, and the language, as well as professions & conduct of most of us during last winter, ought to prove to most people that we have now only got what has been so long our object in pursuit, at least that which was given out to be our object; I fear some few will not be brought to see it in this light, but I am persuaded this is the fair stating of the case.

"You have now got the general outline, & I will not tire you with particulars, but I had that good opinion of your public spirit as to be convinced you would wish to hear as far as I have told you. I have forgot to mention that L[d] Tem. was offered the Treasury, but refused it.

"I am glad to hear that the waters agree with you, & I do not doubt of their bringing about every essential good, but you know I have had always my own notions upon that subject, thinking it little more than idea from the beginning.

* * * * * *

"Have you heard of your friend Mons[r] Jean Jacques Rousseau? because I have been told a story of him which I shall have some little pleasure in relating to you. That Man who was so simple in his manners, so void of affectation, & desired only to live in the most real & unnoticed retirement, is now outrageously angry at the reception he has met with in England, & the little

fuss that has been made with him, & the want of regards & attention to him: and all this he lays upon your friend Hume, to whom he has written a letter of I do not know how many sheets, in the most invective style, & full of all kinds of abuse; I have not seen the letter myself, but I am assured of the truth of it, & I could not resist the satisfaction of telling it to you in some kind of triumph.

"All private matters I think go on here as usual, & your h[ble] Ser[t] goes on in his old train & habits. *A propos* you will say something more than civil to L[y] Nuneham from me, & if you was to give her a kiss there could be no harm in it, she could not be angry. How does she like the Spa life? it must be dull enough to you both. We have, among other foreigners come over here, le Comte & la Comtesse de Harrach from Vienna, I just saw them yesterday, but I do not remember their faces at Vienna when we were there; that same Vienna was a pleasant place, but I have not paper enough to enlarge upon that subject, fresh as it is in my mind, so adieu.

"Ever Yours."

From the Earl of Jersey to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*London, Jany. 20th*, 1774.

"....THE great Gen[l] Græme has resigned his places about her Mty., being offended at L[d] Guil-

ford's being made Treasurer, & one of his places is given to Harris of Salisbury. Mr. HUME is put into the Board of Trade (do not you approve the choice?), and Mr. Greville also. My politics I think go no further than this, & unless I was to attend his Grace of Richd to the India house, I do not know where I should find any more. It may not however perhaps remain long very quiet, for the accounts from America of their rejecting the tea, &c., will produce some step of moment to be taken by Government here, and you know when things are once in motion no body can say how far they will extend. Spr f quite laments this inactive state, he has no opportunity of giving a negative, a thing which he owns he delights in.

"Did you hear Lord Chatham's extraordinary prospect of good fortune, & the ill luck it was attended with? possibly not. Mr. Hollis, a gentleman of estate, took so great a liking to him that he is supposed to have made him his heir, but chusing to have his will made perfectly secure by a London lawyer, he dropped down dead in the mean time. This must have been a great disappointment, for I hear Lord Chatm had taken a house near him, & was paying all sorts of attention.

"This town is, as usual, dull *à l'extrême;* we are at present in a little round of dinners with the Edgcumbes, &c., according to custom at the be-

f Lord Spencer.

ginning of the winter, but I think one of my chief amusements is my little girl; she grows so conversable that she makes a much greater fool of me than ever. I flatter myself she would please you & Lady Nuneham now. I am sorry to hear what you say of her health & spirits; the want of them is a drawback to every thing. I must beg you to remember me to her, I must not say I believe *embrassez la de ma part*, that phrase is not allowed between the two sexes, but you know I should have no objection *de tout mon cœur*, or *corps*, in whatever way you spell the word. Fare ye well, I have written a deal of nonsense."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Althorp, Friday, Novr. 12th*, 1779.

"....Ly J. tells me you are to be in town the 22nd, you will certainly find me there, & like others in almost total despondency on the state of public & private concerns; whichever way one turns one's eyes the last object seems of the greatest moment. Lately I have had an opportunity of hearing a great deal about Ireland, & from all I can collect it is even in a much worse disposition of mind than your friend Mr. H.g has represented. America has set them too successfull an example for them not to hazard something to prevail equally, with such

g Mr. Hume.

powers too as have been most unwaryly put into their hands.

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"The great misfortune is that matters have been suffered to go so far that the grievance will not admit of delay, & I am not quite sure from the past conduct of our directors that a sufficient degree of wisdom prevails for so arduous a task.

"I quite lament Mr. Brown's[h] not having made a beginning at Nuneham; a season's loss in planting I always think a great deal, & I am anxious to have him set the thing on foot before any accident prevents it; the place itself is so beautiful that it is quite a pity not to have it set off & seen indeed to the best.

"I am going to supper, & am to hunt early to-morrow morning, so that I must finish here. Pray remember me to Lady Ht. & Mr. White. My pen is about as good as yours generally are."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Grosvr. Sq., Tuesday, June 12th*, 1781.

"....LONDON is dispersing, & therefore is crowding every amusement together every night, & not a little satisfaction shall I feel to find myself on Saturday night quietly at Nuneham.

"The news that is talked of at present is John-

[h] Capability Brown.

ston's letter, the arrival of the Jamaica fleet, & the loss of the salt fleet, which they say includes the total loss of our Newfoundland fishery.

"C. Fox is to make a motion to-day on the state of the American war; the general opinion seems now to be that business cannot be continued; would to God, then, they would stop.

"Remember me to Lady H. & tell her that we have kept shocking hours since she left us. I hope Mr. Miller is better, & Mr. Whitehead also...."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Grosvr. Square, Tuesday.*

"THO' I had nothing particular to say last night, yet the ending of my letter was very abrupt, as I had no notion of the hour till I heard the bell-man.

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"I do not know what account you may have had lately of Lord Spencer; I am happy to be able to tell you that he is so far better as to bear the exercise of hare hunting twice in a week, & to feel himself gain ground upon it, and luckily for him there is to be no more business in our house before the holidays, because he will go thither, and he is always much the worse for it in *every respect*. His looks make it impossible for one to be sanguine about his recovery; yet living in the country, an unagitating life, if such a thing was

possible, might still do much towards his re-establishment. In politics he is as keen as ever, & that is at present such a complicated, ambiguous business, that it is not an easy matter for any man, even unprejudiced, to act to his own satisfaction.

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"Peace seems to be exactly in the same undecided state as before, I mean as far as the public knows, & I think the conversation about it gives way to Mrs. Siddons: the rage for her is as strong as ever.

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"If there was any other actor besides herself, & if the hours as well as the society of the play house were less inconvenient & untoward, she would tempt one to go often.

"The Opera house is quite disagreable, & I do not think that if the little Theodore did not now shew us, at least, her ancles, I should often visit it. The Rossi has some kind of merit in graceful action, & le Pie is certainly a wonderful fine & pleasing dancer, but they give us such long histories, & there is so much fuss about the poor Sabine women, & they are so long bringing their minds to what they do not dislike, that one is wearied with the extended arms & mournful shrugs. The ladies seem disappointed at not seeing more of the paw paw business upon the stage.

"Pray let me know when you come."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"Grosvr. Square, Monday.

"A FRESH account came yesterday of Lord Howe, & from the same quarter, I believe at Paris, as the last, & therefore equally credited. The purport is that Ld H. having got into Gibraltar all his transports, except only seven which he had lodged safe in neutral ports, & having thus compleated his errand, had left the streights the 16th in his way home, without an action, but he had taken possession of the 'St. Michel,' a large ship which had run ashore on Europa point; it had struck to the guns of our battery, & being manned by Elliot, was sent to join Ld Howe; that the 'Majesteux,' which had nearly shared the same fate, had however got back again, but with great damage. So far the intelligence goes, but it is now believed further that Ld H. intends to bombard Calais in his return. What those people may say if all this should turn out as I have related it, who think there is no good without an action & bloodshed, I do not know, but it seems to me the greatest disgrace upon the arms of France & Spain, & equal credit to the coolness & management of Ld H.

"I am going to Euston on Wednesday for a few days, but if any thing arrives in the mean time you may depend upon having it.

"My best Compts to Lady Harcourt."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Middleton Park, Sunday.*

"I HAVE received here yesterday your letter with much thankfulness for your anxiety about my health, & for all your attentions, which indeed are never wanting to me, but I am sure I feel myself very often excessively deficient, tho' never in real affection & regard.

"It is a great satisfaction to me that I can now give you some account of Lady S.[i] I passed a whole day at Holywell, & found her as you & I, who know her, would have expected, calm & composed from reflexion & religion, but with a settled grief that affects her rest & appetite: not, I trust, so as to have any future bad consequences, unless the continuation should be of any great length of time; but at present medicine only procures the first to her, & she eats nothing but a little garden stuff. Her nights, when alone, I fear are bad indeed, but in the day time she is herself, &, in short, as I said before, exactly what we have long experienced her to be, a person of great attachment, great feeling, & with equal resolution of mind. She means to remain at Holywell for a time, if the house can be made safe & habitable for her, but it is at present in want of such very essential repairs, that there is a doubt whether she can re-

[i] Lady Spencer.

side there with security. She wisely makes no resolutions of where she is to continue to live, or what she will, or will not do, as many are too apt to do. The air of that place is good, & there are reasons why she would prefer it to others. As to this, & indeed every other point, her Son has behaved to her like himself: & my opinion is such of him that I could not say more in his commendation. Lady S. knew of Lady Harcourt's enquiry after her; she had not seen the Dutchess[k] when I came away, but expected her yesterday, & I shall be glad when that meeting is over, for the anxiety of it seemed to add more weight upon her mind.

"It is not yet decided how long we are to stay here, so that our motions are uncertain, but when I can I shall certainly call upon you; probably you will not move yet. Adieu."

The Earl of Jersey to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Monday Eveng.*

"PEACE is the word of the day, & by what I have heard it seems past a doubt; the stocks have risen from 4 to 5 per cent. But what the terms are, or whether it is absolutely certain, I cannot be positive; the messenger is said to have come last night; to-morrow it will be all known, I sup-

[k] The Duchess of Devonshire, her daughter.

pose, but I am to be out of town all day, & probably shall have no opportunity of writing to you.

"Lady J. continues in the same expecting state, but could hold out no longer without the children, & they are to be in town on Thursday; too soon, I think, for them, but better than if they had come a month ago.

"I have just received the pleasure of your letter, and I heartily wish you were in town, from selfish motives, because I do not know when I have a chance of getting down to you. It is quite a mistake in you to think your letters can ever be read by me, except in one light, & of all others that of this evening has given me singular satisfaction, for as one so seldom, so seldom indeed, has an opportunity of conversing *à cœur ouvert*, a letter so full of friendly sentiment & openness must give one uncommon pleasure. I have felt it most thoroughly I assure you; it is quite a farce to talk of new friendships made after a certain time; they are all acquaintances & nothing more, strengthened or weakened according to different situations & circumstances.

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"But Adieu, I feel much warmed upon this subject, & could go on a great while if I had time to indulge myself.

"My best respects at Nuneham."

Letters from Lord Spencer.

JOHN SPENCER was born Dec. 18, 1734. He was sent abroad to complete his education, and when he came of age he gained great credit by taking upon himself the payment of paternal debts to the amount of £100,000, which the creditors had no legal power to recover. In 1761 he was created Baron and Viscount Spencer of Althorpe in the County of Northampton; and in 1765 he was created Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorpe. In 1755 he had married Margaret Georgiana, eldest daughter of Stephen Poyntz of Midgham, in Berkshire. He had one son and three daughters. His eldest daughter Georgiana, born 1757, became Duchess of Devonshire.

Viscount Spencer to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Milan, Octobr. 2nd*, 1763.

"DEAR NUNEHAM,—It was my full intention to write to you from Geneva, but I was so much hurried during my short stay there that I really

had not time. I cannot however resist making you envy me by telling you now that I pass'd a whole day with y^e^ great Voltaire, & had y^e^ luck to find him in very good humour. We went to dine with him at his country house, from which y^e^ view is really very fine, but he has y^e^ rage of wishing to lay out every thing in y^e^ English taste, & fancies that all he has done there is so. I accordingly, when he shew'd us his place, admired everything extremely, & took notice at every *allé, parterre,* & *bosquet* I came to, how perfectly English it was. He, in return, shew'd away as much as he could, & was very entertaining. We had Martinelli, whom you saw at Wimbledon, with us, & with whom he was much pleas'd, but as in some books that he has publish'd he has wrote against Voltaire, we were obliged to conceal his name, & call'd him M^r^. Pandini. Voltaire I believe did not discover y^e^ truth, but found out there was some mystery, & was sometimes very ridiculous about it.

"We were very lucky in our weather for y^e^ journey through Savoy, & were able to ride our own horses in all y^e^ bad places, which prevented Lady S. having any frights from y^e^ precipices, & made it appear less tedious, & she was so pleas'd with y^e^ extraordinary & wild views of that Country as to own that it made amends for y^e^ badness of y^e^ accomodation. This is saying a great deal, for

I think y^e^ Inns are worse & more dirty than ever. The day we cross'd Mount Senis, instead of y^e^ damps which usually fall there, & which I was afraid of for Lady S., we were so lucky to have fine warm weather. She has continued well y^e^ whole journey, & has recover'd her strength amazingly. At Turin, as you know, there is nothing very fine to be seen: we stay'd only a few days; I was presented, however, to y^e^ King, & we had the amusement of a very good burletta.

"I shall stay here only just long enough to see what is most worth notice, & then proceed to Bologna, where I expect great entertainment. By what I have already seen in this Town I fancy there is nothing very capital. I have been carried to a great many places, but have seen nothing that I think worth looking at, except one picture by Raphael, & another famous one of y^e^ Supper by Leonardo da Vinci, which I really think is fine, tho' injur'd by time; perhaps this may please me more from having so many of his drawings. The amusements of this place at present wou'd tempt nobody to stay here, for everybody is out of Town, & our only diversion is an execrable buffa Opera. Your friend, old Pag., is at y^e^ head of it, & sings as wretchedly as I think she did well y^e^ first winter she was in London. I shall let you know now & then how we go on, but my letters must be very unenter-

taining, as I can have nothing new to tell you who have already seen all y^e^ curiosities of this country, & have wrote so much better descriptions of them than I can; but I hope to hear from you sometimes, & that you will have y^e^ charity to write me word of any events that happen in England; for tho' I make no doubt that I shall often be well entertain'd in Italy, yet I am such an arrant John that I never am out of England without wishing to be in it, & am pleas'd with every little anecdote that comes from thence. I am, Dear Nuneham,

"Most sincerely yours,

"SPENCER."

Viscount Spencer to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Rome, April 13th*, 1764.

"DEAR NUNEHAM,—A thousand thanks to you for y^r^ obliging letter, L^d^ Villiers had before inform'd me of y^e^ step you had taken in y^e^ last division in y^r^ house[a]. The motives of y^r^ conduct I had no difficulty to guess, & approve them as I am sure everybody must; but I was a good deal apprehensive that it might be attended with disagreable consequences at home. I hope, however, that y^e^ little coolness it has occasion'd will not be lasting, as nobody cares long to appear to condemn an action which is generally approv'd. Such votes as yours & L^d^ Charles Spencer's do

[a] Alluding to Lord Nuneham's vote on the Wilkes' question.

more honour to a cause than any other ten, because it must be known that they cou'd proceed only from y^e^ dictates of a good conscience; did half y^e^ House of C. possess such, there wou'd be no fear of our liberties from y^e^ schemes of any ad——s——n, but as that never has been nor ever will be the case, & as a greater part will always be guided mearly by y^e^ loaves & fishes, I really think we are in a sad situation while govern'd by a set of men who seem determin'd to have anything voted that will serve a present purpose, without regarding y^e^ consequence of it to their Country.

"Do not think I mean to excite you by this to join in opposition, for I think you are not only justifiable but commendable in acting as you have done in your situation, & in voting with y^e^ m——ty, tho' you might not quite approve of them in questions not very essential; & y^e^ having deviated from that rule on a point which your own mind must tell you was of y^e^ greatest consequence, will not only make you more esteem'd by feeling men of all sides, but depend upon it not less courted by all of y^e^ opposite party. I suppose y^e^ very long days in y^e^ House & y^e^ rage of politicks must have spoil'd y^e^ Society in London a good deal this winter; & by y^e^ account you give of y^e^ publick diversions there, & those I have had of y^e^ weather in y^e^ Country, as I was to be a year

abroad I think I have been fortunate in having chose this time. I cannot give you an account, in return for yours, even of bad diversions here, for as ye present Pope is very strickt in ye observation of Lent, there is none allow'd, scarce even a dull *conversazione*, & ye only entertainment ye evening ever affords, is a penitential procession, or a ceremony in a church; but our mornings we find full employment for, & such as makes amends for ye want of all other entertainments. We have been so diligent in ye use of our time that I believe we have seen everything that is principal several times over, not however till I am tired of them, for I think they give me more pleasure every time I look at them, especially some of ye sculptures which I now grow to admire as much as any paintings, & cou'd, I think, take more pleasure in them; but this is a taste not so easily indulged as ye other, for no money will purchase any capital statues of ye ancients, & a moderate one I think a very bad thing.

"Having seen everything in Rome, we go tomorrow to Frascati to stay a few days at ye Bracciano Villa, which is lent to me by Prince Corsini. We propose to make this our head quarters, from whence we shall see Tivoli & all ye environs. I intended to leave this place immediately after ye holy week, but as ye Duke of York is expected, & has sent me a very polite message, I must now

stay a few days after Easter, not to appear to avoid him. As soon as I can get away with civility, however, I shall set out to go by Terni, Loretto, & Bologna to Venice, &, as soon as I have seen that City, proceed towards Spa, where I hope to arrive by ye middle of July. It wou'd make me very happy if you wou'd put in execution your scheme of meeting us there. Do think seriously about it, & let me know in your next if I shall do anything towards securing you a lodging; I wish I cou'd offer you an apartment, but, with Mrs. Poyntz'es family added to my own, my house will be quite full. Adieu, Dear Nuneham, & believe me

"Ever most sincerely yours,
"SPENCER."

To the Memory of John, Earl Spencer:—

"IF e'er sincerity inscrib'd in stone
Giving the dead no merits but their own
Behold it here, this verse with Sculpture's aid
Records the debt by Love, by Duty paid.
That strangers and posterity may know
How pure a spirit warm'd the dust below.
For they who felt the virtues of his life,
Whether as orphan, friend, or child, or wife,
And not the poet's, nor the sculptor's art
To wake the feelings of a grateful heart,
Their love, their grief, his honours best proclaim
The living monuments of Spencer's fame."

From Countess Spencer to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Spa, Septr. 3rd*, 1773.

"....I AM sure if you knew the sincere satisfaction a letter from you occasions in our family you would let us hear from you a little oftener than you do, but any thing that appears like neglect in you is a subject too disagreable to be recall'd without pain; I will therefore content myself with saying that I expect you should make me some amends in Ireland for a silence of above a twelvemonth.

"We are not without hopes of having a glimpse of you before you set out, as we mean to be in London by the 16th of this month. You will be pleas'd I am sure with Lord Spencer's looks, & surpris'd at seeing the children, particularly Georgiana[b], so grown & I believe I may say improv'd, for she is without being handsome, or having a single good feature in her face, one of the most shewy girls I ever saw, & still retains, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of a french dancing-master, that natural simplicity &, if I may be allow'd the expression, that graceful kind of awkwardness which I begin to think belongs to her figure.

"I saw a good deal of Madame de Gennelis at

[b] Afterwards Duchess of Devonshire.

Paris, & still more of Monsr. & Madme. d'Haussonville, whom I like mightily, it is an excellent *ménage*, & he improves much upon acquaintance. Pray give my affectionate Compts to Lady Nuneham, & tell her how much I regret the losing her society this winter, as I meant to have seen her more than I have hitherto done if she would have allow'd of it.

"Lord Palmerston has just left us & is gone to Paris; he shew'd me some poetry of a Miss Wickins, in which I think there are some very pretty things; one especially touch'd me excessively, more from the subject than the poetry, & would I dare say make the same impression upon you—it is on the death of the author's grandmother.

"My Lord begs I will say every thing from him, & consequently I shall say nothing except that we shall be monstrously disappointed if we do not find you in town between the 16th & the 30th, it is one motive for our having hasten'd our journey...."

Countess Spencer to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Althorp, Octr. 28th*, 1773.

"INDEED, my dear Lord, you did me justice when you suppos'd I should be glad to hear of your safe arrival at Dublin, & it will give me great pleasure if you will from time to time send me some account of your way of life & of the sort

of people you meet with. I have often been told, what I should not otherwise have imagined, that there are scarce any two nations that differ more in character & costume than the Irish & the English. I mean the real homebred Irish, not the exotics. Did you ever hear Lord Spencer mention a lively frenchwoman's idea of some Irish she met at Spa, *ces Messieurs parlent mieux le français, ils se presentent mieux que vous, ils ne manquent pas d'un certain esprit, mais ils me paroissent avoir une sens de moins dans la tête.*

"Let me know whether this is just, in short, my dear Lord, let me hear from you as often as your leisure *& the business of the nation* will allow; I do not insist upon long letters, I only wish to be remember'd & to see you persuaded that you have not in the world two friends who have loved you longer & with a more affectionate attachment than Lord Spencer & myself.

"A thousand compliments to Lady Nuneham, I should not dislike a trip to Dublin to pay my court to her. . . ."

Countess Spencer to Viscount Nuneham:—

"*Wimbledon Park, April 4th*, 1774.

"NOTHING but the incessant hurry I have liv'd in for several weeks could have prevented my writing sooner to inform you of Georgiana's intended marriage with the Duke of Devonshire.

You will have heard of it from others, but what you cannot hear so well as from myself, is that it is really a match of inclination, which makes it infinitely more satisfactory to us than his riches or rank could have done. It is not often in a very young woman's power to give any proof of this, but the uncommon approbation she met with upon her first appearance put it in hers, as she had several very great offers, but gave the preference without hesitation to the Duke of Devonshire, & seems perfectly satisfied with the choice she has made, which indeed we have great reason to believe is a very good one.

"I am delighted to hear you are so well pleas'd with your situation, as for us, we are worried with the praises that all the Irish bestow upon Lady Nuneham & yourself, & we have some fears that popularity will spoil you both, & that you will not condescend to look upon any thing short of adoration when you come back.

"I have not time to write more than just to beg I may hear from you when you have a moment to spare, & that you will believe me with the most affectionate & unalterable regard

"Your Sincere

"& faithful Friend,

"G. SPENCER.

"My Lord is gone this morning to Farming Woods, but desir'd I would not neglect to mention

his warmest wishes for your happiness, & we both desire to be remember'd to Lady Nuneham. I am in a hurry & cannot find words that I like, but take notice that I mean to convey the assurances of a very sincere esteem & attachment from *us both* to *you both*."

Countess Spencer to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Althorp, Decr. 16th*, 1776.

"....I HAVE at last establish'd my two little schools. There are about 25 children at each, from two to seven years old. At four they begin knitting, & at five sewing, if I do not find it too early. I have the good fortune to have an excellent woman for my purpose, at each village, who seem to take the utmost pleasure in their employment. I have had but one child yet in prison, & he seems so mortified with it that I think he never will be there again. At 7 years old they are to go to the charity school that my Lord has long establish'd at Brington, where they will perfect themselves in reading, & those who have a genius for it get an idea of writing and accounts; so that by the age they can be of much use to their parents they will, I hope, be sufficient *scollards*, & be able to attend entirely to their different callings. I never go into my two little schools without wishing for you & Lady Nuneham to

see all the little rosy faces get up, &, after having with the utmost care made their bows & courtesys, immediately cry out for gingerbread; but I dare not trust myself upon this subject least I should tire *even* you, for I have another business much at heart in London, which is to beg Lady Nuneham would visit our new warehouse & enquire for Mrs. Green, No. 1 in Harriss's Court, Oxford-road, near the Pantheon. If there is any thing there that she can purchase, or that she can recommend to purchasers, she will I am sure remember with pleasure that every thing is made by poor people whom it is the greatest charity to employ, & who, most of them, cannot get work elsewhere. I would particularly recommend to her notice some white bonnets which look remarkably neat for girls, & are only 16d each, & some smart black do. for women at 18d each. Adieu."

Countess Spencer to Earl Harcourt :—

"*May 17th*, 1783.

"....THE enthusiasm I have had so strongly about Mrs. Siddons has arisen from this alone. It seems to me impossible any one should make me feel distress as she has done, without having exquisite feelings herself. It is true she is an actress, & those sensations may be more feigned than I am aware of, but by the little I have seen

of her in private, she appears to have them in her nature; should the former be the case I shall only admire her as an actress, but if her heart is what I suppose it to be, I must love her if she was a beggar woman. As you will see & know more of her than I shall have an opportunity of doing, you shall determine for me upon this point. I am glad S^r^ Joshua's Picture is so capital a performance.

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"Your expedition into the City must have been an agreable as well as a curious one. I would willingly have join'd with you in any expression that would have mark'd my detestation of Jeffries, that disgrace to the human species. Providence suffers such characters sometimes, tho' but rarely, to appear, to make us more sensible of the charms of humanity.

"How wonderful it is that people compell'd to travel thro' this little world for so short a time together, should not endeavour at least, by mutual kindness, to be happy themselves, and make others so. Facts are stubborn things, or one could not believe the reverse was so often the case.

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"I hope Georgiana was well enough to partake of your agreable dinner on Sunday; pray let me know how it went off. Your observations on architecture seem very ingenious, but I do not

think myself qualified to talk upon the subject, tho' I have just sense enough to find out that your *bon mot* is a very good one.

"I go on Wednesday to Chatsworth, where I shall have a chance of seeing M^r^. Mason. He does not, nor ever will, know how much I revere him, tho' I am well assured I am no favorite of his. The truth is I detest politicks so much (where by the by the heart has very little to do) that it puts me out of humour whenever I see wit & talents like his employ'd in convincing people of the folly of one person & the absurdity of another. They might be so much better directed in rallying folks out of their foibles, shaming them out of their vices, & encouraging them by a thousand ingenious ways into the practice not only of the higher virtues, but of that good humour'd sociability (put a better word in its room, for I have not time to do it) which sweetens the path of life, & which he is so particularly qualified to teach. . . ."

The Countess Spencer to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March the 2nd*, 1784.

". . . . WHAT you say of Johnson is often true; his prejudices & partialities are unpardonable, & his want of taste in some places is wonderful, because in others you must allow he has shewn a great deal. We shall know good reasons I

dare say, hereafter, why man is such an unequal & imperfect being; but as it is so, it will ever be our interest to pick out the good, of which no character is totally devoid, & dwell as little upon the follies & errors of others as we can.

* * * * * *

"I do not know what to think of Le Vater's book; if it would teach one to search for excellencies among the homeliest features, & by that means check the prejudice one is apt to take against a very ugly face, I, for one, should feel oblig'd to him, because I have often felt that prejudice very strongly; but if it is only a flight of ingenuity that will set every body at work to comment on their neighbours' characters, I shall not wish to study it.

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"With regard to the memorial[c] I have so much at heart, I must, I suppose, wait till my son's next journey to town; I am not attach'd to one plan rather than another, I would trust to your taste sooner much than my own; all I wish is to transmit to *his* posterity some idea of the generosity & benevolence of his heart, the excellence of which I thought was known to few besides myself—but which a variety of circumstances in that last sad period that puts an end to all human greatness

[c] To her husband.

prov'd I was mistaken in—some of these you must, I believe, let me, when I *can* do it, collect for you: it will be a melancholy, but a pleasing, task."

Countess Spencer to Earl Harcourt:—

"*May* 4, 1784.

"I DO not know what to say to you for all the trouble you have taken, but that it is like yourself, & therefore I ought not to be surpris'd at it; pray convey my thanks handsomely to Lord Camelford, &, when you have done this, let me remind you that I am not ambitious, I wish my house to have nothing that would shock people of taste, but I do not desire to have it perfect, & *I will not* be correct.

* * * * * *

"If you can keep me in any happy medium short of absurdity, yet not too correct, you will delight me.

"You cannot suspect me of wanting London finery within doors; all shall be as simple & neat as possible, but I must have my chimneys, doors, & windows, comfortable, whether in or out of Gothick: at all events may not the bow-window be begun, for we are standing still here, which is a sad thing? If you cannot come to me I believe I must go one morning to you.

"Let me know instantly what you would have me do, & you will find me tolerably docile. Adieu."

Countess Spencer to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Wednesday Morning.*

"I HAD the very great satisfaction of finding the Duchess of Devonshire better last night,—the only thing that could have made me amends for quitting the agreable party at S^t^. Leonard's-Hill, & which would have been still more agreable by my being no longer in danger of being froze by M^rs^. Siddons' respect, or hurried out of the house by your care & kindness.

"Pray thank M^rs^. Harcourt for her great coat, which I return, & which warmed my person as much as her reception did my heart. If you should have an opportunity of speaking to Lady Harcourt pray tell her I was mortified at not being trusted with her hat-box, which I verily believe would have travelled peaceably with me to Windsor in my chaise.

"You must have some leisure where you are, so remember I depend upon hearing from you before you leave your present abode. Adieu."

Countess Spencer to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Chiswick, Aug. 29th,* 1805.

"ALMOST every occurrence in the former part of our lives, my Dear Lord Harcourt, has united you & Lord Jersey so closely together in my

memory, that the shock I felt when first I heard of his death, was immediately followed by the reflection that you would feel it as I did.

"Many unhappy circumstances tended to disunite him, for some years, from us both, but I have ever retained a sincere regard for him, who, with yourself, was so highly valued by Lord Spencer. I am happy to find his children have ever shewn him the tenderest duty & affection, & are greatly & justly afflicted with the loss of so indulgent a father. Lady Jersey too is deeply affected; can she be otherwise? But the chief purport of this Letter is to beg I may hear from you or Lady Harcourt, & I hope you will be able to tell me you are both as well as my heart wishes you to be. One must live as long as you & I have done to know the infinite value of an *old* friend. Time gives weight to mere intimacy, & I still meet with some few people who, though they had formerly no pretensions to friendship, are become highly interesting from the power of recollecting past transactions, & of talking over scenes no longer of the smallest consequence to others, & wholly unknown to those with whom we now converse.

"Let this tie,—added to those of the sunniest friendship & esteem, keep up the connection that has so long subsisted between us; & as one may be allowed to be serious on such an occasion, may it, when dissolved here, be extended to a happier

World, where, among the sweetest hopes religion holds out to us, it is no trifling one that we may probably enjoy the society of those we have most loved & esteemed here.

"Adieu, my dear Lord."

Letters from Hon. Horace Walpole.

THE greater part of Horace Walpole's letters in the Nuneham Collection were printed by Cunningham. A few, however, have, so far, escaped the hands of the printer, and they are now included in these papers.

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Arlington Street, March 16th*, 1763.

"MY LORD,—I wish all words had not been so prostituted in compliments that some at least might be left to express real admiration. Your Lordship's etchings deserve such sincere praises that I cannot bear you should think that meer civility or gratitude dictate what I wou'd say of them, tho' I assure you the latter is what I feel to a great degree. I will even trust y^{r} Lordship with my vanity; I think I understand y^{r} prints, and that mine is not random praise. If it has any worth it will encourage you to proceed, & yet you have already gone beyond what I have ever seen in etching. I must beg for the white-paper edition

too, as I shall frame the brown, & bind the rest of y^r^ Lordship's works together.

"I am, my L^d^,
"y^r^ Lordship's
"most obliged
"humble Servant,
"H. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Strawberry Hill, August 21st*, 1764.

"MY LORD,—When you talk of obligations what does your Lordship leave to me to say? and when you make apologies what can I make but excuses for having given you the trouble of writing at all, which I assuredly did not expect?

"I rejoyce Lord Herbert[a] has diverted you, I own it appears to me the most singular book that ever was written. I am overpaid if it has answered my purpose in amusing you.

"As your Lordship is not particularly fond of the country, I wou'd condole with you on its being more disagreeable than common by the continual rains, but I am so selfish as to hope that your having been detained much in the house has con-

[a] The Life of Lord Herbert of Cherbury, written by himself, printed at Strawberry Hill, presented by H. Walpole to Lord Nuneham, and now in the Nuneham library.

tributed to the employment of your Graver. Your friends gain so much by that that you must forgive their wishing you constantly engaged.

"I am, My Lord,
"y^r^ Lordship's
"most obedient &
"most obliged humble Servant,
"HOR. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"LORD NUNEHAM is very cross. The first of all rules is to do as we wou'd be done by. I wish the second was as well established, that we shou'd do as others wou'd do by us,—& then as M^r^. Walpole wou'd disengage himself to wait on L^d^ N. L^d^ Nuneham *wou'd ought* to disengage himself to dine at Strawberry hill next Saturday. All one knows is that Lady Nuneham is goodness itself, & has a wicked husband who does not deserve her. However, I trust some day or other she will return time enough [not on Saturday] to find him with Countess Alfien, & to learn that he had past the morning with the postilion's wife.

"So prays
"y^r^ Honour's
"poor Beadsman,
"H. W."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"I AM in such confusion, my dear Lord, that I do not know what to say, but the truth. I had read *Tuesday* on y^r^ Lordship's card instead of *Monday*, & never knew my mistake till this instant. My servant asked me what I wou'd have for dinner, I replied, 'I dine at Lord Nuneham's.' He said, 'I beg y^r^ pardon, Lord Nuneham's card was for yesterday, I thought y^r^ Honour had disengaged yourself.' I dined at home alone yesterday, & am shocked to think that I probably made your Lordship, Lady Nuneham, & your company wait. You will possibly forgive me, but I can never see my own face again—nor will ever read a card again without spectacles. Consider what pleasure I have lost, & pity

"Your mortified
"humble Servant,
"HOR. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Strawberry Hill, July 27th*, 1773.

"I RECEIVED y^r^ Lordship's two kind letters with the gratitude they deserved, and will thank you for them on Monday evening next, the 2^nd^, trusting you will harbour me till Thursday morning, which is long enough to trespass on you, when you have so many state affairs in your mind.

"Lady Nuneham is very good to bestow a thought on me, & it brings forth an hundredfold.

"I was in London yesterday, where there is scarce a soul, but Maccaronis lolling out of windows at Almack's like carpets to be dusted; and not a syllable of news. Foote's new play, they say, is very dull, & so is

"y^r^ Lordship's
"faithfull humble Servant,
"HOR. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Viscount Nuneham :—

"1773.

"DON'T think you shall be kind to me every day, my dear Lord, & that I will never be gratefull, I must thank you in detail, for the debt wou'd otherwise be enormous. The print is valuable, your own etchings are more, your company most so. I have another little pain in one foot, so you see even my gratitude is interested,—but if you corrupt me is my venality quite criminal?

"Y^rs^ most faithfully,
"H. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Strawberry Hill, Sept.* 28, 1777.

"I FLATTER myself my zeal will not appear too prompt in assuring your Lordship & Lady Harcourt of the part I take in your late terrible shock. I wished to express it the first moment, but trusted you both know me too well to doubt of what I felt for you. I still write in pain lest I shou'd be importunate, & beg you will not trouble yourself to answer me, as all I mean is to shew that I never can be insensible to any thing that affects you.

"It may be some satisfaction to your Lordship to know that every letter brings better accounts of the Duke of Gloucester. I will answer for the Duchess that she is too sensible of your Lordship's friendship not to share with me in all I have felt for you. I have the honour to be with the greatest regard,

"My dear Lord, y^r^ Lordship's

"most obedient humble Servant,

"HOR. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Friday night.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—You have used me so much to your goodness that I catch cold when I am

long without feeling it. I have not had the honour of seeing you this age, & cannot yet *go* to see any thing. My gout, I own, lasts long enough to wear out any body's patience, & has reduced me to solitude—nor dare I complain but to the very good, for who else wou'd mind me—but pray do not think *that* is my only reason for petitioning y^r^ Lordship.

"Blest be the Gout for those it took away,
And those it left me—if you are one of them!

"However, do not be frightened, I trust that next week I shall be able to crawl about again—& then you will have as much reason to be alarmed with my gratitude, for I have already received obligations—aye, & presents enough to be always

"y^r^ Lordship's most bounden Servant,

"HOR. WALPOLE."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Earl Harcourt :—

"1780.

"EXCUSE me, my dear Lord, from not writing with my own hand, but I am just got into bed with a little return of pain.

"I hate to avoid any opportunity of being good-natured, but when your Lordship puts the question to me I must speak truth. I do know M^r^. Hammond, for I was at school with him. I know that he is a gentleman, and has children, and that

he had a very good estate at Teddington, which his extravagance obliged him to sell above twenty years ago. He has existed ever since by genteel begging of all his cotemporaries and school-fellows, whom he wore out, and he is now, I suppose, taking a new lease of the generosity of their grandchildren. In short, my dear Lord, I can say no good of him; and if your Lordship will be so noble as to send him a guinea or two, and tell him it is upon condition that he never troubles you any more, it will be beyond what he has any reason to expect.

"I am grieved to hear your Lordship is out of order, and do hope you will not stir out till you are quite recovered; you will do more service to any part of your country that deserves it by taking care of yourself, than you could do even if you were a Member of the Convocation by sitting amongst them.

"Your Lordship's
"most faithful humble Servant,
"H. W."

The Hon. Horace Walpole to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Berkeley Square, Novr.* 28, 1782.

"MY BEST LORD,—You are so very kind that I must obey you, tho' I hold it very idle to trouble any body with the details of my decay. I have

indeed for a little while been extremely ill, and much worse with its fever than with the gout itself, tho' I have that in five places; but this last was a very good night, and I think the fever very much abated. Philip told me before dinner that he saw I was better, for I had taken up a book, which I had not done for six days. Thus, my dear Lord, I have complied with your injunction, but I don't intend to make a practice of it, for the gout is such a tiresome old story, that it is not fit any body should be plagued with it but those who must endure it—never those who have so much sensibility as your Lordship.

"I have just received a most kind and pleasing letter from Lady Maria[b], who is so charmed with the improvements at Nuneham, tho' it snowed all day, that she seems to think

"'That Paradise was open'd in the wild.'

"I beg your Lordship to tell her that I will write to her as soon as I am able, but I cannot even dictate now for any time. I hear poor Lady Waldegrave is extremely ill, which is all I know, not having been able to see any body till to-day. Adieu! my good Lord, and be assured that while I have breath I shall be your Lordship's

"Most devoted,
"H. W."

[b] Lady Maria Waldegrave.

From an Unknown Correspondent to Earl Harcourt.

"*Bath, October ye 5th.*

"YOUR Lordship has granted my request in so obliging a manner that there is danger of its encouraging me to become still more troublesome. The assisting Mrs. Ralegh to dispose of her little pictures, & letter, to advantage, will be a real act of benevolence & generosity, exclusive of the circumstance of your having been so great a sufferer by her ancestor's enterprizing genius & extensive projects.

"I did not know in what degree of relation Capt Robert Harcourt[a] stood to your Lordship, but I mett with his name in the life I have been reading, and intended to have asked you, as I found he was one of the people who gave a testemony to Sir W. R.'s honour at a time when the tide of fortune was turning against that great & adventerous man; which, joyn'd to a spirit of knight arrantry in his undertaking, made me wish to find him your cousin at least. I should fear these times were not the most favourable even for Sir Walter's shadow to make its fortune in.

[a] Sir Robert was great great great great grandfather to George Simon, Lord Harcourt.

It is an instance of the vicisitudes of human affairs that the last of his name, the only daughter of his great grandson, should be wanting to sell (almost for subsistance) the picture of a man who had once the grant of that great country for which the first princes in Europe are now so violently contending.

"I have seen Mrs. Ralegh this morning and have acquainted her with your Lordship's goodness to her; she thinks herself much obliged, & will thankfully accept of the offer your Lordship makes of doing her the honour to name these pictures to the Dutchess of Portland, or any body you think proper, and will be happy to follow your Lordship's opinion with regard to the disposal of them. For my own part I was half glad & half affraid when I heard of the name of Mr. Walpole, I have an idea of so much depending on the *Ton* he takes in speaking of a thing of that sort.

"I try'd to find out from Mrs. Ralegh what idea she may have form'd of what sort of sum she might supose might be given for these things, but she says she is so ignorant with regard to their worth that I could not get her to say. Your Lordship best knows whether it would be most advantageous to seperate the letter from the pictures, perhaps some may value the manuscript that would not care about them, but in that she will do as you think best.

"On looking a second time on the pictures I find I was wrong in calling them circles, it is only the boxes they are in that is round; the pictures are oval, and I have drawn the exact size & shape on a paper I enclose; in looking on them again with a magnifying glass they appear to me much improved, every feature & every musle seems nicely express'd, tho' at the first glance they look pale, but what is more to the purpose than how they appear to me is that I hear Mr. Hoar much commends the finishing of them.

"Mrs. Ralegh call'd them crayon pictures, but I took them for watercolour. I know not what they are done in but they have both bad peices of glass over them. I wish your Lordship to see them but am affraid of sending them by a common conveyance.

* * * * * *

"Sir W. R. is in a purple dress button'd close, with a collar edged with point turned over the dress. His own hair, which appears to be auburn turned a little grey, is very thick & curling.

"Lady R. is dressed in a black gound with puff'd sleeves, her stomacher, & as much as is seen of her pettycoat, raised point, a small bouquet of flowers stuck into the top of the stomacher, on each side. A very large ruff round her neck, and just above it a necklace of several rows of gold beads. Her hair, which is brown, is most

nicely pencil'd, & droped *en pousset;* her cap is of some very thin substance, put on just behind the *pousset*, and just upon the top of the head, a smal black hat with a very high crown; a pin, or bodkin, appears on one side just under the hat. There is a ring which hangs on a small black cord from the top of the stomacher. There is wrote on the side of this picture in gold letters

"*Videtor et vere est*, & on the other side

"Ano. Dmno 1602.

"Sir Walter Ralegh married Eliz., daughter to Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, she surviv'd him 29 years. They had two sons, Walter & Carew, the first was kill'd in his expedition to Guiana, unmarried. Carew married Lady Phillipa Ashley, and had 2 sons & three daughters; the eldest son, Walter, left no sons, but Philip, the youngest, married, and had 3 sons, two of them were in the army & one in the sea service, the two first were kill'd in engagements. The youngest (Grinville Ralegh), was made page to Queen Mary at the Revolution, was afterwards in the Army, married & died young. He was the father of the Mrs. Ralegh, possessor of the pictures."

Letters from Catherine Macaulay.

CATHERINE MACAULAY was born in 1733, her father was a Kentish squire of the name of Sawbridge. In 1760 she married Dr. Macaulay, a London physician. She early imbibed republican notions, in which her brother, Alderman Sawbridge, encouraged her. Three years after her marriage she commenced publishing in 4to. her "History of England, from the Accession of James I. to that of the Brunswick Line." The publication was not completed till 1783. As the work of a woman it was read with curiosity at the time of its appearance, but it soon sunk into insignificance. A degree of rancour in expressing her extreme views, and an absence of fairness soiled her character as an historian.

Dr. Wilson, rector of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, professed a great admiration for Mrs. Macaulay, and carried his folly to such an extent as to place a statue of her in his church. She was left a widow in 1778, and soon afterwards married a youth of the name

of Graham, who was young enough to be her son. In 1785 she went over to America, to visit Washington. She died at Binfield, in Berks, in 1791. She put forth numerous publications; the last work she published was entitled "Observations on the Reflections of the Rt. Hon. Edmund Burke on the Revolution in France, in a letter to the Rt. Hon. Earl of Stanhope."

Mrs. Macaulay to Earl Harcourt:—

"MY LORD,—You will undoubtedly till you have heard the story of my journey be very much surprised at my sudden return, and of my passing through London without the having done my self the honor to have waited on your Lordship, to give my thanks to you in person for the many civilities which were paid to me in Paris through your Lordship's strong and powerful recommendations.

"By the accident of going into a tepid bath rather too cool and after a hot day, I was attacked, my Lord, at the end of the summer with one of the most formidable of all the species of intermitting fevers, and with every symtom which could threaten the dissolution of a very delicate frame.

"The faculty here, after having made what was

very bad much worse by their unavailing remedies, in despair of my life, and not caring that I should dye under their hands, sent me over to Nice for change of air.

"I was so weak when I left Bath, that from Bath to London I was obliged to be six days on the road, and to remain one fortnight in London to recover strength sufficient to pursue my journey.

"Your Lordship has been in France, and therefore must have an adequate conception of what I suffered from the bad accomodations which I met with on the road from Calais to Paris, being in the weak state of body which I have described, and my fever with all its terrible symtoms still preying on the vitals of my constitution. When I arrived at Paris the Physician to whom Mr. Walpole recommended me said that I should certainly perish on the road if I attempted to go farther. Happily for me the Bark which I had before repeatedly tried in vain about a week after I was at Paris began to have so good an effect as to abate my fever sufficiently for me to partake of that agreable society which your Lordship's recommendations had prepared for me.

"The Duke of Harcourt called upon me several times, offered me all the civilities which are usually offered by that polite people to women of consequence, and would have made a dinner for me if I could have stayed to have accepted it.

"Monsieur Watelet is in a bad state of health, but attended me often; he also would have made a dinner for me, but I was obliged to decline the civility.

"I really, my Lord, know not how to express in a sufficient manner the strong sense which I have of the very great civilities shewed to me by your very amiable friend the Count of Sarsfield; he reminded me of all that goodness and indulgence which I have often experienced from your Lordship; he made a dinner for me the moment I was able to go out, and invited the ladies of the highest rank in his family to the entertainment; he recommended me to their notice and their civilities, nor was there a day during my stay in Paris that he did not call upon me to offer his services. As soon as I have recovered my fatigue I intend to write him a letter and send him all my works which are already published; but I beg when your Lordship writes to him that you will have the goodness to express to him the very high sense I have of all his favors.

"The Dukes of Rochefoucault and Lèoncourt were not at Paris when I first arrived there, but I had the honor of seeing them before my departure; they also were very friendly and polite.

"As your Lordship has not lately been in France you will undoubtedly expect from me some account of the manners and the present opinions of the

Parisians. In regard to their manners, my Lord, tho' I had formed a very high idea of them I found report for once had lessened truth. I was quite charmed with the decent rational system of social life which the good sense of these people have rendered general; and, in regard to their sincerity, I received more important acts of kindness from more than one individual during my short stay at Paris than I ever received from any acquaintance of so short a date in my whole life.

"In regard to the political opinions of the French, my Lord, I fancy they must be a good deal changed since your Lordship was in France. If it was not for the necessity of a passport in the King's name to go out of France, and the being asked at the gates of the several French towns whether you have any thing in your coach contrary to the orders of the King, you would not know by any thing you heard spoken by the people of any rank, and especially of the better sort, that you lived under the power of a Monarch. In no one company in France do you ever hear any one individual of the Royal Family or the Princes of the Blood mentioned; and tho' the Queen of France is at present in the prime of her youth and beauty, is regarded by the English as very handsome, dances exceedingly well, and is possessed of all those accomplishments which attract and captivate most powerfully the vulgar in the favor of Women, and particularly of Women of her exalted rank, yet I do assure you, my Lord, that I never heard this princess once mentioned by a Frenchman. You know we are fond of rattling our chains in our ears which is the most provoking part of the servile disposition which prevails amongst the English. In addition to this account I must tell your Lordship that after the French had paid me compliments on my genius and on my literary powers, the quality which they regarded as the next highest compliment was that I was a hater of kings.

"In regard to the part they take in our civil wars, they are all American mad; and I do assure you, my Lord, that even your Lordship would not be well received in France if you were not an American. All the enlightened French wish ardently to see a large empire established on a republican basis to keep the monarchies of the world in order; and all the vulgar have the same earnest desire, through hatred and jealousy of the English. I am told that this spirit from this last motive is so universal through all the continent of Europe, that, if I had entertained a different idea of our ministry from what I have, I should have thought it my duty, provided my health would have admitted it, to have waited on my Lord North on my first arrival in England, to have acquainted

him with the dreadful storm which hangs over this devoted country.

"After the description which I have given to your Lordship of the manners and opinions which now prevail among the French, your Lordship will undoubtedly be surprised that I should make so short a stay with a people whose opinions and manners are so similar to my own notions on these capital points. Indeed, my Lord, it was sad necessity which drove me away; as my stomach was always very unfortunately delicate, I nauseated from the first, tho' I was prejudiced in its favor, at all the food I met with in France; their meat is carrion, their poultry and even their game insipid, and their cookery most detestable. They have no good spices to season their meats with, and they use them too sparingly; their made dishes are a collection of gravy drawn from bad meat, fat, &c., without other flavour but what a little onion gives; thus the stomach is loaded with every thing which is baneful to it without the assistance of warm spices to help digestion; and, in addition to these mortifications, as my stomach was very weak after my illness, all their wines turned sour upon it. Thus all the juices of my body, vitiated by my long and important illness, was deprived of that nourishment which can alone restore the decayed strength and yield fresh balm to the oppressed constitution.

"My disorder, after three weeks remission, fell all upon my stomach and bowels, and I was obliged to return for the advantage of that kindly nourishment which I believed to be found only in England, and among the English and Scotch who are in America. What I suffered on the road in my return in this inclement season, and under these disadvantageous circumstances, I will not wound your Lordship's general humanity and the private friendship with which your Lordship honors me, in relating all the particulars of; it is sufficient to observe to you that I never tasted other nourishment but water for several days, that I was taken out of my coach every day in a dyeing condition, and tumbled into a hard bed in which I could never get warm; and, if I was not kept awake with fever, was kept awake with cold, and the violent pains in my limbs which the jolting and shaking of the carriage occasioned, notwithstanding I was always laid quite cross it with blankets over me.

"In this way, my Lord, and in the terror daily of being laid up in a wretched French hotel, I got in about the space of six days to Bulloign, very much out of humour, as you may imagine, with all Physicians who send their patients to travel with any important illness upon them for their health. At Bulloign I luckily met with one of Factor's vessels which saved me the misery of going three leagues and a half further by land, but I was so

weak when I was put into the vessel, that, being necessitated to get out of my bed by reason of the sea sickness, I tumbled down on the floor, and all my attendants, who were also unfortunately very sick, regarded me as one in the agonies of death. A cold sweat bedewed my whole body, and I was so weak that I could not lift my hand to my head to wipe off the moisture which fell from my mouth; however, being at last landed safe at Dover, I found my self much refreshed by the comforts of an English Inn and a warm room. Here I stayed two days, and then proceeded by slow stages to Maidenhead, when my fever began to rage so violently, and every other dangerous symtom to encrease so fast upon me, that I was put into a bed and was obliged to send for an Apothecary; but by the help of an emetic, after keeping my bed two days at Maidenhead, I was enabled to reach my house at Bath by slow journies. The violent efforts which nature made to fling off my disease in the course of my journey succeeded so far, with the assistance of an excellent good warm house and good nourishment, that my fever has been decreasing ever since I have been at Bath; my nights are tolerably good, and I seem to have nothing now but weakness to contend with.

"This long letter, my Lord, if I did not highly depend on your Lordship's friendship, would undoubtedly be very impertinent, but as I cannot help flattering myself that you rank me among that happy select number who have the honor and privilege of being named among your Lordship's friends, it will undoubtedly find its excuse.

"I hope you received your muff safe, that you will do me the honor to let me hear from you soon, and that you will present my respectful compliments to Lady Harcourt. Dr. Wilson joins me in respectful compliments to yourself, and I am, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's grateful
"and most obed. Servt,
"CATHERINE MACAULAY.

"*Bath, Alfred House, Jan.* 17, 1778."

Mrs. Macaulay to Earl Harcourt :—

"I WAS just on the point of writing to your Lordship when I received this morning the favor of your letter; part of the subject of it gives me some *chagrin*, because I find by your Lordship's intimation that Monsieur de Sarsfield has missed the receiving a letter which I wrote to him some months agoe, informing him that my works would be sent to him as soon as they were bound; they are now in the hands of an American gentleman, who has promised to deliver them, but I shall esteem it an additional favor to those which I

have already received from your Lordship, if, when you write to the Count, you will inform him of the letter which I wrote, and also of the delivery of the books to the American gentleman.

"It is, my Lord, at present one of the warmest wishes of my heart to have my works translated into the French language, therefore I shall embrace the obliging offer of the Duc De Harcourt with great satisfaction; and your Lordship will perceive how much I trust to the friendship with which you honor me, when I take the liberty to desire you will permit one of your servants to order in my name an octavo edition of my works, bound, of Messieurs Dèlly, in the Poultry, to be conveyed to the Duc de Harcourt after the manner you shall please to direct.

"I prize your Lordship's aprobation so much that your total silence on my last publication, viz. 'The History of England from the Revolution to the present time,' first vol., gave me a good deal of pain.

"I hope you are not disgusted with the freedom I have taken with William, our great deliverer as he is called.

"I am sure if your Lordship examines my principles closely you will find this last publication exactly concordant to those which are set forth at large in my preceeding vols., and it was impossible

for me to treat with aprobation characters who have laid the foundation of our ruin by a funded debt, and by reducing the art of corruption into a system.

"It was also impossible for me without pain to make the necessary reflections on the conduct of Sr Robert Walpole, on account of the regard I have for the virtues and the good understanding of his son, and the friendship with which he does me the honor to express for me. If your Lordship finds him disgusted on the mention I have made of his father, I am sure you will have the goodness to offer in my excuse all that your reason and the sterling virtue of your principles must suggest to you on the subject.

"A line from your Lordship with your free sentiments on my last publication will give me great pleasure.

"I am not only shocked, on a public concern, on the apprehension of a war with France, but on the dissapointment of a private gratification; for I promised my self the returning to Paris when I was in better health, and once more enjoying the pleasures of a French society.

"I am much obliged to the Duc de Rochefoucault for his polite enquiries. I beg your Lordship will return my thanks when you write to him.

"My respectful compliments attend Lady Har-

court; Dr. Wilson desires to join in the same to yourself, and I am, my Lord, your Lordship's

"Most affect.,
"Most obed.
"and most obliged
"Humble Servt,
"CATHERINE MACAULAY.

"*Bath, Alfred House, March* 28, 1778."

Letters from Elizabeth Montague.

MRS. ELIZABETH MONTAGUE was daughter of Mr. Matthew Robinson, who had estates in Yorkshire, in Cambridgeshire, and in Kent. She was born in York in 1720. She passed some of her early years in Cambridge, the residence of Dr. Conyers Middleton, whom her grandmother had married as her second husband. She was a child of great beauty, and was endowed with a very vigorous understanding. Dr. Middleton took great pains to develope her talents, and even at a tender age engaged her in the learned conversations of the distinguished men who frequented his house. Her father, a man of large intellectual powers, was naturally proud of the interest which his daughter excited by her uncommon acquirements.

To Gilbert West and Lord Lyttelton, however, belonged the merit of instilling into her mind the steady principles which were always apparent in tempering the exuberance of her

genius. One of the highest compliments paid to her was conveyed in these words of Cowper, which he addressed to a correspondent:

"I no longer wonder that Mrs. Montague stands at the head of all that is called learned, and that every critic veils his bonnet to her superior judgment. The learning, the good sense, the sound judgment, and the wit displayed by her, fully justify, not only my compliment, but all compliments that either have been already paid to her talents, or shall be paid hereafter."

These words were written after the poet had read Mrs. Montague's "Essay on the Genius and Writings of Shakespeare," a wonderful performance, which received the approbation of all contemporary critics.

In 1742 Miss Robinson married Edward Montague of Denton Hall, Northumberland, and Sandleford Priory, Berkshire; he was grandson of the first Earl of Sandwich, and sat in several parliaments as member for Huntingdon. Mr. Montague died without issue in 1775, and left a very large fortune to his widow, who survived him twenty-five years. She had an early love for society,

and her large house in Portman-square was always open to all who were distinguished by their genius or position.

In her earlier years she was intimate with Pultney, Pope, Lyttelton, Beattie, Carter, and Oxford; and in her decline of life she entertained Johnson, Goldsmith, Burke, and Reynolds.

A sound understanding, and a lively wit not wanting in ballast, distinguished this gifted lady; she was not, however, without a dash of worldly wisdom in her composition, which those, whose art is to find fault, have attributed to her as a blemish. She died at her house in Portman-square in the eightieth year of her age.

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Viscountess Nuneham:—

"*Sandleford, Oct. ye 16th*, 1771.

"DEAR MADAM,—I cannot imagine by what accident your Ladyship's letter has been fifteen days upon the road, but I did not receive it till last night. I was obliged, soon after my return to this place from Hagley, to go to London upon

business. I found the town extreamly empty & dismal, & hasten'd back as soon as I dispatch'd the errand upon which I went. My going to London at that time made me obliged to defer an engagement I had with Dr. Beattie, whose poem of 'The Minstrel' I know is a favorite with your Ladyship & Lord Nuneham, who have such an exquisite taste of noble & elegant sentiments, as well as of fine descriptions of inanimate objects.

"This Highland Bard had by following the Muses with too constant application, & too unwearied attention, very greatly impaired his health. To recover by dissipation & exercise the spirits he had exhausted by sedentary occupations, he was order'd by his Physicians to take a journey to south Brittain, & Dr. Gregory, who is a particular friend of mine, & knows my small talk is as good for an invalid as panada & barley water, gave him an order to make me a visit in Berkshire. As I esteem'd his talents, & respected the uses to which they were apply'd, I was very desirous to shew all regard to Dr. Beattie, & only trembled least your Ladyship should write me word that the most convenient time to you to see me at Nuneham would be during the residence of my Minstrel. This would have been the case if your letter had arrived at the time it should have done. However, on Dr. Beattie's departure I was determined to write to you to know when I should

wait on you, but alas! I got a cold which confined me to my fireside, &, since that, most impetuous winds & incessant rain prohibit undertaking a journey through our roads, which are but just passable in summer. I cannot express how mortifying this has been to me, who had been delighting my imagination with the prospects of Nuneham & its soft charms for the morning, & the elegant conversation I should enjoy by the fireside there in the evening. I looked upon the descending showers with as anxious & as sad an eye as the poor farmer does on the torrent which breaks into his field while his sheaves of ripe corn are standing there. I had with pleasure seen the seasons advance to bring my scheme to maturity, & thought myself at the eve of the happy harvest home, when the heavens poured this mischievous deluge upon us, & bore away the ripen'd wish at its day of completion.

"In this cup of evil there remains, however, hope at the bottom, but alas! it is hope defer'd to another summer. Your ladyship must then indulge me in making you a long visit, and it shall be the first I make, that the treacherous season may not again deceive me into disappointment. Tho' the time is so near for all good people to meet in London (for, after November begins, nothing but Wolves remain to growl in the wilderness), yet even this hope of seeing you

& Lord Nuneham does not console me quite. This summer concluding at Nuneham would have left a most agreable impression, & have compleated my pastoral. I had been at Stow & at Hagley, & Nuneham would have made my summer delights compleat. At Hagley I had the pleasure of meeting your admirer, & my admired, Gen[l] Paoli. We often indulged ourselves in talking of your Ladyship; Lady Temple & Lord Lyttelton were not silent upon such a subject, and considering we were all of the same mind, we held up the conversation with greater vivacity than is usual with any on which there is perfect unanimity.

"If it were possible to add to my regret at being deprived of the honour & pleasure of waiting on your Ladyship & Lord Nuneham, it would be knowing that Miss Fauquier & M[r]. Jerningham are with you. It is impossible that such a society should want any addition, so that one cannot indulge a melancholy pride in thinking one's absence is regretted.

"M[r]. Jerningham will perhaps wish to know something of the character of his brother poet. He is directly his own Edwin, the poet of nature & sentiment; his manners have an elegant simplicity; his disposition seems harmonized by poetry & philosophy; his conversation is pleasing & instructive. I cannot say fortune has frown'd upon

him, for she has not done this bard the honour to take the least notice of him. The University of Aberdeen has conferr'd upon him a professorship that, for much toil & trouble, rewards his labours with an £100 a year. He has a large estate in Parnassus, for which the booksellers pay him a pepper-corn rent. On these incomes he maintains himself, a pretty wife, & a little family, & it will never occur to the great that he deserves any thing but oats & bread & spring water.

* * * * * *

"D[r]. Beattie read to me a 2[d] part of 'The Minstrel,' which I think even better than the first; it is not quite finish'd.

"I was extreamly sorry to hear of M[r]. Anson's ill health; when I was in Worcestershire it prevented my having the pleasure of making him a visit, & seeing his Athenean taste on buildings, &c. I hope he is well again, as I heard some time since that he was recovering. I beg of y[r] Ladyship to return my thanks to Miss Fauquier for a fine collection of peacocks' feathers. I got a design for your robe which I intended bringing to Nuneham for your approbation. I am impatient for the silk upon which the trimming is to be embroider'd. The trimming on the sides must be set on strait & without puffing. Lady Temple has collected a great many Alaccons'[a] feathers for

[a] King-fishers.

me. I think with great pleasure of fitting them up for the wear of a person who will bring intrinsick worth to outward beauty, & add sweet notes to fine feathers. My best respects attend Lord Nuneham & also Miss Fauquier & Mr. Jerningham.

"I am, Dear Madam,
"your Ladyship's
"most obedt & faithfull
"Hble Servant,
"ELIZ. MONTAGUE."

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Viscount Nuneham :—

"MY LORD,—I have at last return'd the tale of pity & terror, after having often read it with all ye emotions Melpomene would require. I wish, for the honour of womanhood & widowhood, a longer interval was to interpose between the death of the husband & the dire disaster. I shou'd believe Lady S——more would hardly think ye story less natural for such an alteration. Mr. Walpole has a great tragick genius; we had a terrible glimpse of it in the castle of Otranto, & here it appears with august majesty. I hope he will publish this tragedy, & dedicate it to his predecessor Shakespear, who, if I understand him (and I have taken a great deal of pains to do so), will be pleased with the compliment as he wanders in the Elysian Fields below.

"'The Goatsbeard' is incomparable, I will send it to some of my friends at Paris, where ye women have beards political, atheistical, &c., and ye men no beards at all. There is infinite witt, humour, & good sense in this poem; if so sharp a lance does not make folly bleed I have no hope the age can be cured. By the by it is good nature turned satyrist.

"For my life I dare not say how much I admire certain heroes[b] who take wicked republican generals prisoners. It looks as if the Military hat cover'd more parts & valour than ye cap of liberty. As I have been long jealous of Mrs. Macaulay, I am delighted to think she will no longer love the House of Harcourt, & then the House of Harcourt will not love her.

"I hope your Lordship & Lady Nuneham are to dine at ye French Ambassador's to-morrow. I flatter myself that my family has ye honour of being much obliged to Lord Harcourt; favours however sweet acquire a perfume by passing through certain hands; as human nature is a paltry thing it is happy for it when its pride makes it more gratefull.

"I am yr Lordship's
"most Obedt Hble Servt,
"E. MONTAGUE."

[b] Alluding to Col. Harcourt's having taken General Lee prisoner.

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Tunbridge Wells, ye* 30 *May*, 1772.

"Mrs. Montague presents her compts & a thousand thanks to Lord Nuneham for his obliging attention to a troublesome & impertinent request. His Lordship's note reach'd her at Tunbridge, to which place she repaired on the faith of the almanac maker, who says it is now May. The trees seem to shiver with an ague, the nightingales are ill of a hoarseness, even the babling cuckoo in this east wind dares not open his mouth to mock married men or warn batchelors, & through the unblossom'd hawthorn blows the cold wind. In such a situation Mrs. M. will not afflict Lord Nuneham with a long letter, tho' her sense of his goodness to her cannot be comprized in a short one. She begs leave to present her best respects to Lady Nuneham."

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Viscountess Nuneham :—

"*Friday morn*, 19*th Septr.*, 1777.

"DEAR MADAM,—In your Ladyship's & dear Lord Nuneham's present situation perhaps the most sympathizing friend is the best comforter, which is ye only consideration that can give me

hope of being of any use. Time's lenient hand will heal in some degree the wound, but you will both find your best comfort in what makes the principal joy of your lives, exerting your power of doing good. Providence has establish'd such equitable laws that whoever alleviates ye sorrows of others cannot himself be left the prey of melancholly; so the tears you dry will at length dry up your own. I hope you will at present consider that however sad this event is to you both, that as Lord Harcourt had fulfilled every noble purpose of living, nothing of this could be to him untimely. Age, & infirmities the consequence of age, were not very distant. The philosopher who denied ye epithet of happy to Cresus in his power & prosperity would now bestow it on him you lament.

"This evening I will wait on you & shall bring with me a heart that as long as it beats will truly feel every thing that can affect your Ladyship & Lord Nuneham.

"When I return'd from Lady Charlotte Finch's I heard Mr. Miller had been so good to call; alas! I had no apprehension of what he had to relate.

"I am, my dear Madam, with more unalterable sentiments, yours & your dear Lord's

"most affecte obliged

"& faithfull hble Servt,

"E. MONTAGUE."

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Sandleford, July ye 21st*, 1785.

"DEAR MADAM,—I hope your Ladyship does not think my heart has been ungratefull, tho' my pen has not express'd my thanks for the most obliging & most charming of letters which I had the honour to receive from you two days before the marriage of my nephew. On the 9th of July I had the pleasure of seeing those hands joined whose hearts were before united, &, as soon as the several vows were plighted, the happy pair accompanied me to Sandleford. The old aunt, tho' less enraptured, was not less contented than the lovers.

"To see my adopted boy settled in a manner likely to form his happiness, & fix his virtue, was an object of great importance to me. It renders life more agreable, & would make death less terrible to me; I have now obtain'd my principal wish, which was to see my young man blessed by an amiable discreet wife, who will make domestick life agreable, & less in danger from the allurements of pleasure, or the seductions of ambition. The true interests of the community, & the virtuous & elegant amusements of the mind, are endeared by family affections & interests. A Minister hunter, a Fox hunter (I mean in the litteral

sense), or a gambler, are to me horrible characters, but the gay & lively spirit of youth in a single & unconnected state is apt to addict itself to some of these pursuits.

"I must do Montague the justice to say he did not shew any disposition to these errors and vices; but the sirens of the world can adapt their song to every ear they find at leisure to listen to them, & may make impression on the mind which is uningaged. I am every day more charmed with my new niece, she has a very uncommon share of understanding highly cultivated, & is very ambitious of further improvement; but what is more valuable than all the rest, she has a great deal of religion, good principles, & a sweet & obliging temper. At present, I thank God, I enjoy perfect health, but, should it alter, I shall not feel any anxieties for those I leave behind me, for I draw great comfort from the thought that my life is not now of importance to any one's welfare, then *qu'on sorte de la vie comme on sorte d'un banquet en remerciant son Hote*, & *faisant son pacquet*, seems much one's duty.

"I pass'd some days at Hampton with Mrs. Garrick before our wedding, & we had the pleasure of breakfasting with Mr. Walpole at Strawberry Hill. Surely one never saw so charming & delightfull an habitation. It gives one the pleasures of the imagination as well as of taste. The same genius

which imagin'd the castle of Otranto could only have form'd & fashion'd it.

"A spirit of national vanity makes me hope Mad^me^ de Genlis had the honour of seeing Lady Harcourt before she left England.

"Your Ladyship is infinitely good in saying you wish to see me at Nuneham, & I could hardly flatter myself you were in earnest if I did not know that Lord Harcourt & you love to make every one happy. The confidence I have in that benevolent disposition might make me intrude myself for a day or two if I were disengaged. At present you would find me more dull than usual, for my spirits are much affected by the death of the Duchess of Portland, whom I loved & esteem'd in my earliest days, & my esteem could not but increase & strengthen daily for a character so excellent.

"I had the pleasure of receiving a very affectionate letter from M^rs^. Alison last week. She tells me her little girl is very pretty, & I can believe it, for she was herself a very beautiful infant. I regret that she is settled at such a distance, but, as her residence in Northamptonshire will be convenient to M^r^. Pulteney till his daughter is disposed of, one dare not wish her to live in any other part of the world, as he has promised to give M^r^. Alison a benefice when one in his gift shall become vacant, &, in the mean time, gives

him a pension, & pensions & promises are things much in the present taste.

"The news papers, & they *always speak truth*, say your Ladyship is in Town; so on such respectable authority I shall direct my letter to Harcourt House.

"I hope Lady Vernon & Miss Vernons were in as perfect health, as I am sure they were in perfect happiness, when they were at Nuneham.

"My best compliments attend Lord Harcourt. M^r^. Montague & M^rs^. M. Montague are very ambitious to present theirs to your Ladyship & my Lord Harcourt.

"With the most perfect esteem I have the honour to be, dear madam,

"your Ladyship's most obliged

"& obed^t^ h^ble^ Servant,

"E. MONTAGUE."

Mrs. Elizabeth Montague to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Sandleford, Augt. ye* 14.

"MY LORD,—Will your Lordship pardon my taking the liberty to send you a turtle? To have presented to your table a poet, a philosopher, or a *bel esprit*, would have been more proper, but they grow so scarce it is difficult to catch them, & if any such exist they will be attracted by certain sympathies to Nuneham. I may plead in

excuse for what I have done that in these our days even the delicate & refined are more nice in the choice of their dishes than their guests, but I know elegance of every kind presides at your Lordship's table, & directs the cards of invitation as well as the bills of fare, & I must rely on your Lordship's & Lady Harcourt's indulgence for my pardon.

"Having heard a report last night that your Lordship was return'd to Nuneham, I dispatch'd a carefull servant this morning to Portman Square, to convey to you from thence the turtle, which was just arrived there, a present from Mr. Alison's brother, & I am assured in perfect good condition. I imagine it will arrive at Oxford before my letter. I understand by the news papers, for I have not any other means of information, that Lady Harcourt is still at Cheltenham, from whence she is to attend their Majesties to Nuneham. I beg that when her Ladyship arrives your Lordship would do me the honour to present my compliments to her. I hope one may confide in the good accounts of his Majesty's health; if the Cheltenham Well has perfectly establish'd it, I am sure it must be considered as the source of happiness to all his subjects. With the most perfect esteem

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's most obliged & obedient

"Humble Servant,

"E. MONTAGUE.

"The Turtle is to be sent by the Oxford stage, for he wd be long on the road if he was to walk; indeed he is almost ye only creature who wd not run to Nuneham if permitted."

Verses addressed to the Hon. Miss Vernon (afterwards Viscountess Nuneham) by Mrs. Montague:—

"ALL smooth tongued flattery join in prizing,
The praise of sacred truth despising,
Strange as it seems the maxim's sound
Scarce one exception e'er was found;
For 'tis a truth which must be granted,
We value most what most is wanted.
He who enjoys Corinna's wit
Her ugliness would soon forget,
Did she not claim it as his duty
To celebrate her face's beauty.
Hint at the beauties of her mind—
There silence, silence is enjoin'd.
The graces which in Chloe shine
Pronounce her to the view divine;
Praise Chloe's breeding, 'twill appear
Rank irony to all but her.
Extoll her real charms, you're told
Such stuff is common, vulgar, old.
To prove my first assertion right,
I'll set it in another light;
And crave, with Laura's kind permission,
Her name to aid the proposition.

May I thy qualities define,
'Tis all I ask, in one short line?
May I proclaim without offence
Thy lovely manners, beauty, sense?
Laura all praises will disgust;
Nor wonder then, for all are just."

Dean Marley to Mrs. Montague, who had praised his Verses.

"FAR from the world my timid muse retir'd,
In secret sung, nor wished to be admir'd;
Warm from the heart she pour'd her tender strain,
To tell her rapture or assuage her pain;
To grots and shades obscure she chose to fly,
And fled with trembling step the public eye.
When Montague, whom all the nine proclaim
The first the brightest on the roll of fame,
When she, when Montague, with partial ear
Heard my weak notes and seemed well pleased to hear,
Her magic flatteries with prevailing art
Resistless stole on my unguarded heart.
Cease then, oh Montague, in pity cease,
Nor arm my pride a rebel to my peace.
Shall I my calmer, safer joys disclaim,
Yield to aspiring hope and pant for fame?
Ah! no, ambition cease, fell spirit rest,
Raise, raise no more, these tumults in my breast;
No more shall Montague my peace destroy,
And swell with Syren breath the babble joy.
Come meek humility, be thou my guide,
O'er my frail heart with fostering care preside,
Guard me, in modest diffidence secure,
Unknown, unenvied, tranquil and obscure."

Poems by Viscount Palmerston.

HENRY TEMPLE, Viscount Palmerston, succeeded his grandfather in 1757. He was Member of Parliament for Southampton, and a Lord of the Admiralty. In 1767 he married Frances, daughter of Sir John Pole, Bart., of Lewes, in Sussex. She died in 1769, leaving an only daughter. Lord Palmerston married secondly, in 1783, Mary, daughter of B. Mee, Esq., by whom he was father of the celebrated statesman, who succeeded him as Viscount Palmerston.

"*Monday morning*, 1766.

"LORD PALMERSTON presents his best Compliments to Lady Nuneham & Miss Poole, and recommends the inclosed to their indulgence, of which it stands in great need, on two accounts; first and principally, for being no better on such a subject, and secondly for not being produced sooner if at all. As to the last point, the case is that it was scratched out during his journey hither, very unlike what it is now, and thrown by as much too unworthy of its subject. Leisure & inclination

have now brought it out again and put it into its present form, in which, however, it hopes for nothing more than that the will may be taken for the deed.

"ON LEAVING SPAU.

"*Inscribed to Lady Nuneham and to Miss Poole.*

"YE scenes farewell, where health and sport
Maintain divided sway;
And where from every clime resort
The idle, sick, and gay.

"Farewell; yet from these motley walls
Reluctant I withdraw;
And pleased remembrance oft recalls
The happier hours of Spau.

"Not that Hygeia still attends
Her salutary springs,
And, oft' invoked, from Heaven descends
With healing on her wings.

"Not that amidst her vallies green,
Her woods, her streams, and meads,
On every sweetly varied scene
Enraptured fancy feeds:

"Not that still searching for delight
In crowds, the young and gay
With mirth unfelt beguile the night,
And dissipate the day.

"But that by friendship's magic power
My days contented flew;
Such charms o'er every passing hour
The blest enchantress threw.

"Her faithful mirror to my sight
Two female bosoms shew'd,
Where truth unalterably bright
And sacred honour glow'd;

"Each feeling, undisguised, and warm,
That dignifies the mind;
And virtue more secure to charm
With grace and beauty join'd.

"Candour, not blind to overlook,
But wishing to commend;
Discernment just, that ne'er mistook
The flatterer for the friend:

"True taste, whose undissembled choice
By nature's guidance moves;
And, careless of the general voice,
Must feel when it approves:

"These can alone the willing heart
With lasting power engage;
To youth new lustre they impart,
And dignity to age:

"O'er life they shed that covering balm
Which can our griefs compose;
Our passions' turbulence they calm,
And steal us from our woes.

"Then, goddess, o'er thy suppliant's days
Thy blissful charm prolong;
Propitious smile; and oft' thy praise
Shall animate his song."

ODE TO FRIENDSHIP,

BY VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

(Written after his second marriage.)

"COME friendship, come, propitious guest,
In mild attractive beauty drest,
My raptur'd bosom fire;
With thy bright flame serenely strong
The poet's heart, the poet's song,
Celestial nymph, inspire.

"At thy approach despair and pain
And melancholy's gloomy train
Their hated forms remove;
Thy presence lightens every woe,
Thy smiles can every hope bestow,
And every bliss improve.

"E'en mighty love by thee refined
New transports to the amorous mind
And nobler joys imparts;
To thee he owes his sweetest charm,
The tender wish, the soft alarm,
The sympathy of hearts.

"Unblest by thee his joys decay,
The bright delusions melt away
Like visions of the night;
Disgust and hate alone remain,
And unremitted years of pain
For moments of delight.

"In sad affliction's lonely hour,
When virtue sinks opprest by pow'r,
When hope itself is dead;
'Tis thine the drooping soul to cheer,
'Tis thine to wipe the falling tear,
And raise the mourner's head.

"Superior to the frowns of fate,
The menace of a tyrant's hate,
The crowd's tumultuous voice,
Thy firm resolves no fears can shake,
No hopes allure thee to forsake
The object of thy choice.

"Averse to envy, noise and strife,
Thou lov'st the private walks of life
By malice unpursued;
Suspicion, jealousy, and hate,
That haunt the chambers of the great,
Thy modest worth exclude.

"Mistaken fav'rite of the sky,
Unhappy greatness! raised on high
Superior ills to bear:
Amidst the crowds that round thee bend
In vain thy bosom seeks a friend
Its joys, its griefs to share.

"Ah! friendship, what are Courts to thee?
Thou hast not learned to bow the knee
Before Ambition's shrine;
Thou hast not learned the prudent art,
When honest virtue fires thy heart,
To quench the spark divine.

"To thee belongs each sense humane,
The fear that flows for others' pain
At pity's tender call;
The tongue that falsehood never knew,
The heart devoted to a few,
Benevolent to all.

"Such once was thine lamented shade!
Whom friendly love in vain essay'd
To rescue from the tomb.
Such thine mine ever valued friend,
On whom my fervent hopes depend
For blissful years to come.

"And oh may Heaven's indulgent care
Propitious to my ardent prayer
One humble suit allow!
Nor wealth nor grandeur I request,
No thirst of power inflames my breast
Or prompts th' ambitious vow.

"Ye powers preserve the friends I love,
Their joys prolong, their griefs remove,
Since grief must come to all!
Preserve them tender, just, and kind,
Nor seldom in their soften'd mind
An absent friend recall."

ON BEAUTY,

BY VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

"ENCHANTING nymph of heavenly birth,
Celestial beauty sent on earth,
To sooth our toils, our cares, our strife,
And gild the glooms that sadden life;
Thine empire countless millions own,
And every clime reveres thy throne:
Whate'er pursuits mankind engage,
From frolick youth to serious age,
To thy resistless power they bow,
While nature prompts the artless vow:
Lured by the hopes thy smiles can give,
For thee the wretch endures to live;

To give thy praise his valour's meed,
For thee the hero dares to bleed;
Enticed by thee to happier dreams,
Ambition drops his airy schemes;
To purchase thee from caverns deep,
The miser brings his treasured heap;
The sage, with reason's boasted arms,
Awhile may combat beauty's charms,
But, soon, a bursting sigh will prove
That reason never conquered love.
If e'er I bow'd before thy shrine,
And hail'd thy power with rites divine,
O! blest enchantress, deign to tell
In what consists thy magick spell?
Is it an eye whose sparkling rays
Eclipse the diamond's fainter blaze,
A cheek that shames the vernal rose,
A breast that vies with mountain snows,
A mouth that smiles with matchless grace,
Like pearls within a ruby case,
A form like that which once was seen
On Ida, when the Cyprian Queen
Disclosed her charms to mortal eyes,
Contending for the golden prize?
These may our warmest passions fire,
And kindle every fierce desire;
But love, upheld by these alone,
Must soon resign his tottering throne,
And holds a poor precarious sway,
The short-lived tyrant of the day.

Or e'en, to form a nymph compleat,
If all the various charms could meet
That each divided bosom warm
And every throbbing pulse alarm,
When Johnson, Meynell, Pitt, advance,
And Wroughton joins the sprightly dance,
And lovely Spencer, mild and fair,
Comes blushing forth with Hebe's air.
Yet these were vain, unless to these
Was joined that secret power to please,
That nameless something undefined,
That soft effusion of the mind
That smiles so sweet in every face,
To every motion lends a grace,
And, when their beauty lends a dart,
Impells and guides it to the heart.
In vain the stealing hand of time
May pluck the blossoms in their prime,
Envy may talk of bloom decayed,
How lillies droop, and roses fade;
But Constancy's unaltered truth,
Regardful of the vows of youth,
Affection, that recalls the past,
And bids the pleasing influence last,
Shall still preserve the lovers' flame
In every scene of life the same;
And still with fond endearment blend
The wife, the mistress, and the friend."

ON LOVE,

BY VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.

"OFTIMES in friendship's semblance drest
Love unperceived assails the breast;
Oftimes like anger is he seen,
With sterner brow and haughtier mien;
Or now he melts in tender tears,
And pity's angel-softness wears;
Or trips like mirth across the plain,
Or borrows frowns from cold disdain.
But tho', to cheat inquiring eyes,
A thousand shapes the Proteus tries;
However changed in form and name,
The god within is still the same."

Viscount Palmerston to Viscountess Nuneham:—

"*Limerick, Sept. 20th*, 1771.

"DEAR LADY NUNEHAM,—I was extremely happy to receive your kind letter which reached me just as I left Dublin, and which gave me that sincere pleasure which I allways feel from every account of your welfare and every mark of your friendship and remembrance. I defer'd answering it till I had made some progress in my Irish tour, in hopes I might meet with something that might afford you some amusement. I fear I have not succeeded, however. Dull as a traveller's journal may be, he can offer little else, and must perpetu-

ally be the little hero of his own tale. The time I was obliged to stay at Dublin would have been insupportably tiresome had I not been so lucky as to have several of my old friends who have houses in the neighbourhood. As to the town itself, it joined the emptiness of summer to the dirt of winter. It is, however, in an improving and an enlarging state, & there are many good houses built, as well as some new streets, since I was there last. Many of the publick buildings have long been magnificent, but still the general air of the town and its inhabitants is such that it seems as if some of the handsomest buildings in London were scatter'd about in S^{t}. Giles's.

"In my way from Dublin I pass'd four days very pleasantly with Lord & Lady Jocelyn, who live in a comfortable place about 40 miles from Dublin. They are mighty worthy agreable people, and Lord Jocelyn is one of the pleasantest men I ever met with. My next stop was at Cork, where Lord Townshend had recommended me to a friend of his, a principal merchant, who was mighty civil, and turned out a sensible good sort of man. He has a wife and several daughters, who are exceeding fine ladies at Cork, and as affected as one's heart could wish. They are, however, great philosophers, for they have the misfortune to be mighty ugly, but do not seem to be the least dejected about it.

"Cork is a better & larger town than I expected to find, and the sailing from thence down to the harbour's mouth, for about 12 miles, delightful. There is a place belonging to a M^{r}. Rogers, one of the sweetest things I ever saw. From hence we went to Killarney, where we intended staying three days, and staid six, from whence you may infer we were pleased with it. I must reserve a particular account of it till I have the pleasure of seeing you. In general I think that after much has been deducted from the pompous descriptions I have seen of this lake, and many extravagant encomiums struck off, there still remains merit enough to make it a lovely place in fine weather. This is, however, a very scarce thing, and we thought ourselves in high luck to have one perfect day and four tolerable ones out of the six.

"There is a house and garden upon the edge of the lake, belonging to a M^{r}. Herbert, called Mucruss, which I should envy exceedingly if it was in a more accessible part of the world. You may easily imagine that in a place of this sort you are carried to see a hundred things as wonders that are not worth looking at; and in my opinion the chief merit of the place is felt in rowing about among the islands of the lower lake, which present an endless variety of the sweetest points of view imaginable. The large islands are finely wooded, and there is an old castle converted into

a barrack which rises up above the woods of the largest of them, and being seen from all parts adds much to the dignity of the lakes. Here we found Col. Vaughan, L^d^ Lisburne's brother, quarter'd with part of his regiment and a good band of musick, which was no small circumstance of pleasure to us.

"The small islands are, in general, rocks, very singular in their forms, and cover'd with a variety of shrubs and small trees, among which the arbutus holds the principal place. The most beautiful thing in the lake is an island called Innisfallen, with very fine woods and little pastures intermixed. There is a walk quite round the edge of it, about a mile in length, & exactly such an one as M^r^. Brown would have made, and from it you have all the pleasant views the lake & the other islands can afford. It is the continual resort of parties of pleasure to dine in a room which is part of the remains of an old abbey, and which has been repair'd by Lord Kenmare, to whom it belongs.

"We were agreably surprised to find a great many very well-behaved good sort of people in the town of Killarney, who were mighty kind to us, & gave us dinners and assemblies with much good humour & no form, and in return, we carried them out and gave them a cold dinner and a dance upon the grass at Innisfallen, and I assure

you our ladies were as much beyond the Cork misses in beauty as they fell short of them in affectation. It really surprised us to find in so exceeding wild and remote a corner, & among people who had never been out of it, a stile of behaviour which you scarce ever meet with in the country in England, and to say the truth not extremely often where you would most expect it, in the capital. We were now among the old Milesians in the center of the *Mais* and the *Os*, & I should divert you if I was to tell you some of the names of our beauties; but I must defer that, as I have not near room left on my paper to hold them. Were I to attempt to describe the country thro' which we have lately pass'd it would be such a description of dirt & wretchedness as would rather disgust than amuse. Even this town of Limerick is, I think, the nastiest place I ever was in. From hence I go to Sligo, and so into the north of Ireland, where I expect to meet different scenes, & from thence shall return by Scotland.

"Pray remember me affectionately to your Lord, and congratulate him upon his rural taste, which, however, I think he may fairly drop when the trees do their leaves, and satisfy himself during the winter with the garden at Leicester House; & if he cannot live without his rustick friend[a] he

[a] Walter Clark, the Nuneham gardener.

may bring him up now & then, tho' not for long times that he may not be corrupted.

"Adieu, dear Lady Nuneham, believe me ever, with the most affectionate attachment, y^rs^

"PALMERSTON."

Frances Pole (Viscountess Palmerston) to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Lewes, Octbr. ye 14th*, 1767.

"I DO not wonder that you should have been under some difficulty as to how you were to address me, but notwithstanding the impatience of the news paper writers, their intimate friend 'Miss Fanny' had no right to any other title till Wednesday last. I foresaw their familiar manner would give you great offence, for no one ever felt so much for the dignity of their friends; & to have a Plantagenet so miscalled, & so mistreated, must appear in its worst colours to one who, after some thought, & much difficulty, placed the poor pedigree Man in the window seat. You see, my Lord, I have not lost any of my sauciness, therefore you who know *its value* may venture to come to me without fear of *ennui*.

"I have been longer than usual without answering your last letter, tho' it was not from expecting another; therefore, I beg you to observe that I am so well convinced of having your good wishes,

that I have not waited for a formal assurance of them. Indeed, those of my friends who know my Lord Palmerston, must be sensible of my good fortune; for if to be united to a man of sense & honour can ensure a woman's happiness, I have undoubtedly the fairest prospect for mine; and I must say his noble & disinterested conduct towards me would claim my utmost gratitude, was not that secured to him by feelings of a more tender kind; & which I may venture to own, as they have not been easily kindled. The truth is, mere advantageous establishment never was my object. I was happy in my situation at home, loved my liberty, & never would have given my person where I could not give my whole heart. This little account of myself I think I owe to your kind friendship, tho' I confess I find it the subject in the world the most difficult to talk upon.

"If you return to town so soon as you mentioned in your last, I fancy you will be there some time before we shall. My Lord desires to be remember'd to you as one who has a real esteem & regard for you. I shall say nothing of mine, as I must strangely have acquitted myself if you have not long since been convinced of it, therefore no regular assurance can be necessary, even at the end of a letter. Adieu.

"F. P."

Frances Pole (Viscountess Palmerston) to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Novbr. ye 2d*, 1767.

"*En verité Mon cher Vicomte vous ecrivez très agréablement*, & my having suffered such a letter as your last to remain above a week unanswered must make me appear very ungrateful, especially as I cannot plead so good an excuse as the having employed my time in tormenting my good cousins. Indeed the occasion was so favourable that it rather shews a want of spirit to have let it slip; but the truth is, I am so well content with reflecting on my own happiness, that it has left me but little inclination to interrupt theirs. I have not even seen any of them except Mr. P., who I one day met in a very dirty lane where he could not pass by without being very handsomely bespattered. But to return to the cause of my not having writ to you before, which was indeed no other than the having had a bad cold.

"Lord Palmerston did not require my assistance at Southampton, tho' he has had a little shadow of an opposition from an enterprizing Mr. Macquire, which obliged him to go there for a few days last week, from whence he also is returned with a bad cold.

"Your description of the echoing hall & all the good company assembled in it, amused me exceedingly; but I must ask why you would not follow

the advice I have so often given you, of decamping in due time, & then you would not have destroyed the effects of so many days' angelic behaviour. Indeed I regret extremely that there was no such place at Sudbury as an infirmary for the reception of us good folks of modern refinement; you would have been secured from the jovial & the noisy, tho' had it been upon Addison's plan you might chance to have met my good Lady on those days in which she had been assiduous in the study of her black books; & in that case it might be a curious question to determine whether you would have chosen to remain there, or returned again to the echoing hall, had the hour been ever so early; tho' seriously from the account you give I do not wonder that Ly Nuneham & you should not be sorry to return to the quiet of Cavendish Square. It may not be long before I may have it in my power to make you a sladering visit there, for we now talk of leaving this place a week or ten days before the meeting of the parliament. I shall have much femal business on my arrival in town, as this mourning is come very *mal à propos*, & I have not as yet thought of providing any thing for it. My Lord always desires to be very particularly remembered to you. Pray give my love to Lady Nuneham, & do not criticize this abominable scrawl. Adieu.

"F. P."

Frances Pole (Viscountess Palmerston) to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Saturday.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—Before I set out for our french chateau I must just thank you for your kind letter, & still kinder desire of being troubled with us at Nuneham. It must be unnecessary to assure you how glad I should be to be with you, tho' it must be defered till some little time hence, for my Lord is not only obliged to go to look after his various business at Broadlands, but he is also desired (by my oracle Sr John Pringle) to bathe, & drink the sea water, both of which he can do either from Broadlands or from Lewes, but, unfortunately, not from Nuneham ; therefore we must give up all hopes of being with you till after your return from Astrop[b], where I hope you will not fail to go.

"I am really ashamed that you should have had the trouble of asking me so often for what, God knows, will not be worth having when you have got it. It never could have been very valuable, tho' probably something better ten or twelve years ago ; however, such as it is, you certainly shall have it ; & I should hope, if it is done time enough to have the honour of a place in your room next winter, that will suffice. Certain it is,

[b] A village near Bicester, which was formerly frequented for its chalybeate springs.

I have not been with Falconet yet, but really, my dear Lord, I have of late found so much business to do, having left every thing undone from the miserable inactive state I was in all winter, that I have not had one morning at command ; therefore, I hope you will excuse me, & tell me in your next how you would chuse to have me attired, for as I should never think of sitting for my picture[c] as my own amusement, I beg to have it in all respects just to your fancy.

"I hope for your sake the stories are pretty well exhausted, but with regard to mine, they would be no incumberance at all, for I am not possessed with the power of much attention for things I could wish to hear, & as for things in the *hum drum* way, God has given me the grace never to know or hear anything about them, even at the very time they are going forward : therefore they are no evil to me, any further than the shortening my days considerably, for all the time so employed is absolute doze & sleep to me, as you have often, I believe, been an eye witness to.

"As you say nothing of your health I hope you have at present no reason to complain. My kind love always attends Lady Nuneham. I am just going to dress. Adieu, Adieu.

"F. P."

[c] This charming little picture still hangs in a place of honour at Nuneham.

An Ode by General Burgoyne,

On the Marriage of Viscount Palmerston.

"While, Palmerston, the public voice
Displays, in comments on thy choice,
Praise, censure, or surprize;
Blames thy disinterested part,
Or int'rest finds in worth of heart,
Where Fanny's treasure lies.

"Fain would my muse (tho' rude sincere)
One humble artless wreath prepare,
To bind her lovely brow;
With thee would hail the auspicious morn,
Attend the Bride she can't adorn,
And Bless the nuptial vow.

"Let the dull claims of due esteem
To lukewarm crowds be claims supreme,
I found pretentions higher;
For know the heart, now taught to beat
With friendship's sacred pulses sweet,
Has once been try'd by fire.

"'Twas mine to see each opening charm,
New graces rise, new beauties warm,
'Twas mine to feel their power;
Nature, and morals just and pure,
For thee have made the fruit mature,
Since I adored the flower.

"After hard conflict, passion cool'd,
Discretion, reason, honor, rul'd
O'er the subsiding flame;
Till Charlotte to my vacant breast,
With kindred charms and virtues blest,
A sweet successor came.

"Long years of Love we've number'd o'er,
And oh to many many more
May heaven the term extend;
To try with thee the pleasing strife
Who boasts the most deserving wife,
Who proves the truest Friend."

Letter from T. Heming.

THE following curious letter from T. Heming, the King's Goldsmith, is inserted to show what singular arrangements obtained when an Ambassador's outfit of plate was provided from the public chest.

Lord Harcourt was on the eve of setting out for Paris when he received this letter:—

"My Lord,

"Business calling me out of town part of last week, was the reason of my defering this explanation till now——

"——For the last Letter your Lordship was pleas'd to honor me with, confirms my Opinion that great pains has been taken to misrepresent the affair between us——

"——I therefore once more intreat your Lordship's indulgence to permit me the freedom more fully to explain myself, & if I am wrong I do with all Humility ask your Lordship's pardon——

"——And First—I have always understood when an Ambassador or other Officers of State are appointed, that warrants are Isue'd & address'd to the master of His Majesty's Jewell office, for him to give orders to the King's Goldsmith, to

make such Plate as was necessary, conformable to the limited weight of such warrants——

"——And formerly they always took it out in such plate as could be afforded at the office price, & it was the Duty of every officer in the Jewell Office to see there was full weight, & finish'd in a proper manner——

"——But I believe it was never understood that when the King had appointed his Goldsmith to make such plate as was deliver'd at his expence, that it shou'd be in the breast of that Nobleman or Gentleman to employ their own without the acquiessence of the King's Goldsmith——

"——Who indeed at one time, he not being brought up to the Business, therefore consented, provided he pay'd that Goldsmith as far as the Office price allow'd, he finding the Bullion——

"If Otherwise, the King's Goldsmith is merely a convenient Cypher, of no other use but to Raise money for the advantage of other shops——

"——And indeed it must be very unpleasing to be appointed to an Office, & to see another publishing to the world that they do the Business & Reap the Profits of it——when every one knows it was my Province to make it, & I have since Learnt that the King was much surpriz'd I was not employ'd——

"But I presume your Lordship will say I have no Room for complaint, when I am allow'd a com-

pensation for Raising the money to pay them, tho' at the same time the King's Goldsmith never undertook to furnish his Majesty's ministers with money——

"My Lord, I beg leave to answer, you can make me no compensation adequate to the Injury done me——For, First, it is the Interest of that Goldsmith to Insinuate I was not thought equal to the task, or that I could not make it on as good terms, or 20 other Reasons to me more prejudicial—— Though at the same time they are conscious that I was Regularly brought up to the Business, & have every advantage to conduct trade upon the most reasonable terms, & I believe I may safely venture to say that I can undertake to prove to a Demonstration that your Lordship is at least £10 p^{r} Cent a loser by not employing me——

"——I come now my Lord to that heavy charge of your Lordship's, namely, of making exorbitant & unreasonable demands, which many People your Lordship is pleased to say have of late complain'd of——

"In answer to which, if your Lordship will point out the person so Impos'd on, I will restore him Fourfold, & make ev'ry concession you can wish——

"——For, first, I do not remember any person that has had plate of me that has ever shown the least discontent, & those few that have desir'd to commute it & take cash have always requested

it directly, after their being appointed, I am sure I never wish'd or Recommended any to take cash, I coul'd not be so much my own Enemy, for on the King's appointing me His Goldsmith, & by His direction, I bring up both my sons to the Business, contracted with a number of the best hands for a constancy whether there was work or not, Built Large workshops, keep a very Large stock to answer the emergencies of the Office, & put my self to every other expence that might expedite business & do Honor to my Great Master, because I fancy'd my self the King's Goldsmith——

"Whereas, if the work is to go into another Channel, I must bring up my sons to some other Business, sell my Bullion again, & be at considerable loss to employ those hands upon things not wanted——

"The Duke of Richmond, indeed, when he was appointed seem'd prejudiced against me, & I presume was told that he wou'd save money by having his plate of his own Goldsmith; & accordingly went & bespoke a good deal, but the same day he had the precaution to come to me & examine strictly into the matter, acknowledg'd himself misled, & after that order'd all his plate of me, & has employ'd me ever since; & was so kind as to send me a letter on the occasion, wherein he owns he intended me his displeasure, but, sensible of having

things misrepresented, promis'd me his future Favor, & which if I have the Honor of seeing your Lordship I will beg your perusal——

"——I therefore hope your Lordship will inform me to whom I have been unreasonable, that I may have an opportunity of vindicating myself, for by my character I have hitherto succeeded in life, tho' I am not so vain as to expect I shou'd please every body——

"For—Supposing on an Ambassador being appointed he says he has plate sufficient of his own, & consequently does not want any more, & therefore desires to commute it, & I Pay him . £2400
or somewhat more or less, in proportion to the Price Bullion is at that time. I likewise pay in fees about . . . 200
Which money I Borrow for 12 months, which upon an average is about the time that I lay out of my money; & it was once my case the Government owing me at that time near £10,000 pounds I accordingly borrow'd for 12 months £2800 for which I paid interest . 140
And as all might not Centre upon one life I thought it advizeable to insure this, which I cou'd not get done under . . . 140
£2880

"——I should be glad to know what benefit all this negociation was to me. Why indeed I had

the consolation of laying my self under obligations to my friends, to give up half my time in attending the Jewell Office & making up the accounts, & soliciting the treasury & Exchequer to be Repay'd, & at the same time get the good name your Lordship is pleas'd to confer on me——

"For your Lordship is pleas'd to say you shall speak of it without scruple, & I am fearful not to my advantage, yet I believe every officer in the Jewell Office will allow they was never so well served——

"And I flatter myself, after the Impartial perusal of these lines, your Lordship will not see me in the light you did before, For, I trust I shall be so happy as to remove your Lordship's displeasure——

"The King's Goldsmith, as I Before observed, was not brought up in the trade, & I suppose finding himself in Difficulties as to Designs & Patterns, he not keeping any plate by him, it suited him to commute it & employ another Goldsmith, & this I presume was the reason of calculating upon an Average for 12 or 15 months' Credit, tho' at one time the Government was 9 Quarters in arrear, & the family of the late Goldsmith in a memorial set forth to his Present Majesty that they were sufferers by the Deaths of Preceeding Reigns to the amount of £12,000 pound, & the King was pleas'd to take Compassion & ap-

point him a Salary; which negociation Mr. Jenkinson is acquainted with, & was one reason why I took the freedom of mentioning his name, & another was that I knew he was your Lordship's friend, & I shou'd wish the scale to turn in your Favor——

"——But as your Lordship is pleas'd to stay until I Receive the money, which probably now might not be long on account of the India money being appropiated to the Discharge of the Civil List, in that case I shall leave it to your Lordship's Honor——

"Your Lordship excusing my having taken up so much of your time will be esteem'd a Singular Obligation confer'd on

"Your very obedient

"Hble. Servt,

"THO. HEMING.

"*The Earl of Harcourt, Octbr.* 4, 1769."

The above paper is inserted somewhat out of its proper order, having been previously overlooked.

Letters from Mrs. Clive.

CATHERINE RAFTER was born in 1711, and displayed an early genius for the stage. Cibber was the first to introduce her to the public, having engaged her at a very small salary. Her performance as Nell, in "The Devil to pay," in 1731, fixed her reputation as the greatest performer of the day in that line of character; and she remained without a rival for thirty years.

In 1732 she married Mr. George Clive, a barrister. The union did not prove a suitable one, and the newly-married pair soon agreed to separate. Mrs. Clive's private life was most exemplary; she continued to delight the public till the year 1769, when she followed the example of her great friend Mrs. Pritchard, and retired from the stage, taking refuge in a small house near Strawberry Hill, which Horace Walpole called Clive-den. Here she passed the remainder of her life, amidst a circle of friends, in easy

competency. She died after a short illness, universally respected and beloved, in 1785.

Mrs. Clive had a strong and pleasing voice with a correct ear. Her mirth was so genuine that, whether in the suppressed smile or the downright burst of laughter, she always carried her audience with her. Her figure was commanding, and her movements graceful. Many attempts were made to induce her to reconsider her determination to abandon the stage, but she always continued resolute in her resolve.

Copy of a letter from Mrs. Clive to one of her friends on the report of her being again to appear on the stage, 1774 :—

"*Novr.* 17*th*, 1774.

"MY dear Mrs. —— need not give herself the trouble of sending for places on my account, as I am not going to tell any *White Lyes* in Mr. Coleman's new comedy. There is a common saying, they will not let people rest in their graves, but our present news writers go beyond that, for last year they buried me before I was dead, & now they are making me more alive than I chuse to be. I am not quite sure, but I believe I am

something of a philosopher, for I am so perfectly contented with my present happy quiet, that I think I would not enter into a scene of anxiety again even for the enormous sum of a thousand pounds. I am extremely well in health, in mighty good spirits, & perhaps as conceited as ever; but I am so totally out of that assurance that is absolutely necessary for an actress, that I believe if I was to go on the stage again, I should drop with the fright. Then I should be so much afraid of being worried with those dreadful epigrams, some praising, others censuring me; besides I must tell you, I retain such a reverence for the public, who were always so good to me, who flatter'd me so charmingly the last time we were together, that I would not run the risque of abating their esteem for me upon any consideration. I know you will call this vanity; it may be so perhaps, but I am sure it is of the right sort."

Mrs. Clive to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Twickenham, June ye* 4*th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—I have been in so much distress for these two or three months past that I have not had spirit to write; indeed I am ashamed that I have not before this time thank'd your Lordship for your obliging *charming letter*, but I hope you will forgive me. I know, my Lord, you would not like me so well in tragedy as

comedy, and if I had wrote before, my epistle wou'd have been very *deep;* at present it will only be *dull.* I shall take the liberty of refering your Lordship for the particulars of my calamities to the history of Noah's flood (I suppose your Lordship has read in the bible). I do not recolect there is a full and true account of M^rs^. Noah's behavior in the ark, but I question if she had much more patience than I had. We were shut up for near two months, without a posibility of any body coming near us in a carridge. The trades people cou'd wade or come in boats, so we were not in want of provisions; but the floods were so prodigious, and the thieves upon the water were so allarming, for they came in their boats over the tops of hedges to the doors of the houses, and carri'd of every thing they cou'd reach, that I was under such apprehentions I was forc'd to fly for it, and beg to be taken in at a neighbour's where I stay'd five days.

* * * * * *

"We *gentrey* that have given ourselves airs about our Villas on the banks of the Thames, are mightly humbled, at least I can speak for myself; the horrid appearance it made while it was in its grining convultions, will allways be present to me; and tho' it now appears with its usual smiles and dimples, I cannot help thinking it has a mallitious look.

"I hope Lady Nuneham and your Lordship are perfectly well, and that you left your friends and admirers in Dublin breaking their hearts after you, for it is allways pleasent to know people grieve for our absence (tho' we do not return the Compliments).

"I am sure your Lordship found your flower garden in its full beauty, and tho' the *bells cou'd not ring,* the birds all sung at your arrival.

"I beg my respects to dear Lady Nuneham. I shall have the greatest pleasure in seeing her Ladyship before your return to Oxfordshire. I must beg the favor of your Lordship, when you see M^r^. Whitehead, to make my compliments to him. He was so very obliging to send me his works, and I am sure he must think me very ill bread and ungratefull not to thank him, but I really did not know how to derict to him. I was very much entertain'd, and proud to see my name in his Drama, and I believe your Lordship thinks it time to see it *hear.*

"I am your Lordship's most obedient,

"C. CLIVE.

"My B. and S. begs their respects."

Mrs. Clive to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Twickenham, Dec. ye 7th,* 1777.

"....AND now, my Lord, I shall hope for a promise that Lord and Lady Harcourt will do

me the honor (before they go to Nuneham) to eat their pastoral dinner at Clive-den, where they will be sure to meet with the usual delicacies, and the desart will be charming, for I shall beg your Lordship will invite Mr. Mason, my dear Mr. Whitehead, and Miss Fauquire, to be of your party, which will supply us with wit and humour; then there will be the Pivy[a] to talk nonsense, and I hope the Walpole to find fault with me. I shall get the false hay to thro' over the meddow that every thing may look PRETY.

"Our little bit of countrey London here is at present very lively; every thing in the highest *ton;* morning consorts, with fine hands sent for from London and Bath; balls, with suppers (every thing in jelly); card parties without number; indeed we seem to be here (with the rest of the world) in the high road to ruin.

* * * * * *

"I have one comfort, I have been told we was ruin'd ever since I was born, so perhaps it may not be true.

"Lady Anne Connelly did me the honor to call on me yesterday morning, and was telling me how noblly Lord and Lady Harcourt had acted by the Dalawar famaly. I was not surpris'd. . . ."

[a] "The Pivy" was a name by which some of her intimates called Mrs. Clive.

Mrs. Clive to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Twickenham, Feb. ye 12th,* 1781.

"MY LORD,—I give your Lordship a thousand thanks for your charming delightfull letter, repleat with sentiment, wit, humour, & fancy; in short cram'd with ideas; is it possible that the noble being that cou'd write that letter, shou'd in that letter confess that he was growing sick of the world; that he very seldome saw any company; that he was sometimes meaney days together without speaking to a creature except Lady Harcourt, and that his only companions and favorites were a barking dog and a squalling Cornish chough; and that he found this disposition grow upon him? For God's sake, my Lord, cut it down as fast as it comes up, for it is a wretched bad weed; depend upon it, my Lord, that the foolish and the vulgar (for your Lordship knows there is the great vulgar) are never half such disagreable company to us as we are to ourselves, when we get into those melancholy "tricks;" and really if your Lordship shou'd persist in that temper, I shall be afraid you have been like Alexander to pay a visit to Dioginess, who will try to coax and flatter you into his clutches's till you will set about biulding tubs instead of palaces; indeed Sir you had much better be acquainted with the laughing gentelman (I don't know his name).

"I speak by experiance, for when I first retir'd to my 'pastoral solitude' I was, as Lady Fancifull says, 'strangly nice,' I shook my head, and shrug'd my shoulders at my neighbours; they wou'd not do for me by a pretty deel, but I found that I must in a short time grow mightly tired of a grunting sister, and philosophic brother, and therefore must sometimes change the scean; and if I cou'd not laugh with my neighbours, I cou'd certainly laugh at them, which wou'd be just the same thing.

"That resolution has succeeded to a merical, and I now give it out that we are the first and most agreable neighbourhood in the county of Middlesex; tho' perhaps in reallity there never was such a set of drivilers. But I am delighted with them ('tis no matter which way), and if I am ever so happy to pay a vissit to Harcourt House, and have not lost my faculty of makeing my friends laugh, I shall give a few sketches that I am sure will entertain your Lordship and Lady Harcourt; for I shall allways remember with the greatest gratitude that I never laught so truly from my heart as I have done with your Lordship, with any other person in the world; nay I even laught at your calling me 'a vile tory' till my tears wet the paper, tho' at the same time I don't know what the word means.

"Now, my Lord, I must be serious, and thank your Lordship for the kind concern you was so good to express for me; indeed I was in a dreadfull dangerous situation for menney years, without knowing any thing of the matter; on the conterary, I was taught to believe that I must have a third part of Mr. Clive's fortune at the time of his death, let it be what it wou'd, and this by one of the greatest lawyars in the world, Mr. Wedderborn. Poor Mr. Clive is gon, and I think made but a bad exit, he promis'd me all his goods and chattles and has given me none; but, thank God, I am quite happy and contented, and don't feel the least mallice to his memory. I have fortune enough to purchas every thing I *cannot* do without; and as for bagatales I am their humble servant.

"I beg your Lordship will give my best respects to my dear Lady Harcourt, I hope her Ladyship will forgive me for having been so free with her Lord.

"I am, my Lord,

"your Lordship's most obeident Servant,

"C. CLIVE.

"My brother and sister beg their Respects to your Lordship and Lady Harcourt."

Mrs. Clive to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Twickenham, August ye 12th*, 1783.

"MY LORD,—I give your Lordship a thousand thanks for your excelent venison, I never tasted

I think any so fine. It was perfectly sweet, and as fat and tender as an ortalan. I wou'd not suffer any body that was not the *ton* to pertake of it; your friend Mr. Walpole was one of the company, and I think I never saw him eat so heartily, nor seem more pleas'd; we wanted Lady Harcourt, your Lordship, and the rest of your party to make us compleatly happy.

"Drinking healths it seems is quite left off except in the city, where it wou'd have been anounc'd,—'Come, hear is to the founder'—'and the confounders'—if such a health had been propos'd, I suppose Mr. Walpole wou'd have been under the table, except I had acted a city lady, and given it in fun, then nobody wou'd have laught more than himself.

"My heart feels greatly for my dear friend Mr. Whitehead, who indulges such a malancholy suspicion least the fame of his dear departed friend Mrs. Pritchard shou'd be sulli'd by the pranks of a detestable prostitute; who I suppose gives out she was related to Mrs. Pritchard, to give her self an air of haveing vertue in her family, tho' she had none of her own; but he may make himself perfectly easey, for there is not the least consanguinity between Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Willson. Her true history is—that she is daughter of a half sister of Mr. Palmer who marri'd Miss Pritchard. I remember her and her

mother when I was in Dublin twenty years ago; the mother was I believe an honest woman, tho' a wretched actress; the girl was then nine or ten years old, very bold and impudent, but seem'd to have some genius for the stage, but I believe much more for the profession she now follows.

* * * * * *

"Miss Pope has just left me, she is charming.

* * * * * *

"Adieu, my dear Lord. I am & ever shall be your great admirer and obliged,

"PIVY CLIVE."

Mrs. Clive to Earl Harcourt. Written three weeks before her death in 1785:—

"MY LORD,—I ought before this time to have thank'd your Lordship for your fine venison, but at the time I receiv'd it I heard that Nuneham was crowded with royal and noble visitors, and at such a time the poor Pivy's letter wou'd have been toss'd about, and perhaps not have been read; that I shou'd not have liked, for I have not as yet found out that my letters are dull and insipid. I am easely check'd, for I am as proud as any body wou'd wish me to be; and pray then, if that is the case, what may make me write now—why really and truely, my Lord, because I heard you was ill, and I wanted to

know how you did, for I shall allways remember that I loved Lord & Lady Harcourt, and unless I shou'd live to loose my gratitude I shall allways continue to do so. But I have got into a sort of tragedy letter—pray can Mrs. Siddons write comical letters, if she can I am quite ruin'd; she is a charming woman to be sure, but she has no business to be clever.

"I find we are to have a young Siddons soon, and I hear the whole world is to stand God fathers and God mothers.

* * * * * *

"I don't love to mention coming to town, I have so often intended it, and so often been disapointed; but if I should, I shall certainly pay my respects at Harcourt House. I am next Saturday to have a card party, when I expect the whole county of Middlesex. I think I had better make them all pay for coming in, it wou'd help to defray my expences in town.

"I hope my dear Lady Harcourt is well, and beg your Lordship wou'd give my best respects to her Ladyship.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's most humble Servt,

"C. CLIVE."

Letter from Miss Hay.

MISS HAY to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Glynbourn, Febry. ye 16th*, 1776.

"I CONGRATULATE your Lordship & Lady Nuneham on being at length settled in the possession of Harcourt House, which tho' it may not at this time be quite agreeable & commodious, I have not the least doubt will soon become so.

* * * * * *

"And now my Lord permit me to thank you for the interest you do us the honour to take in my brother's health, & his being free from the danger of being sent to America. I readily acknowledge the truth of your observations on that subject, and most sincerely wish he had sufficiently recovered his health to attend his duty in Parliament[a]; but he really could not at present without the greatest risque, and that to no purpose, as the numbers on every division show. If on this American business they had ever been near on an equality, I am very sure of what he would do; and I do assure your Lordship that, in that case, it would be a point of conscience with me, not only not to say any thing, but not even to wish against this risque.

* * * * * *

[a] He was member for Lewes.

"The pamphlet which your Lordship mention'd my brother has just got, & is now reading it. If I may judge from the little glympse I had of it, it agrees so much with the notions entertained here, that it cannot fail to be liked. Indeed, we of all people need not be told with what sort of justice our distant colonies have been governed. Your Lordship knows the cruel manner in which I lost a brother in the confusions in Bengal; but you could not know that that brother had a generous & benevolent heart which glow'd warmly with the love of liberty & truth, while it was his hard lot to dwell in the midst of rapine, fraud, & tyranny.

"He had quitted his native country with all the cheerful hopes of youth about him, & few of the hopes of youth are so well founded as his then appeared; for he was going to the most flourishing settlement in India, where he was indeed sent in the way that young lads of his age most commonly were; but then he had advantages not quite common; he had a father who had spared neither thought nor expense to qualify him for his destination; he was recommended to the care of the principal people where he was going, by their nearest connections & those on whom they most depended; he had in my father a watchfull guardian at home, and the little fortune he was to have was sent out with him. But a few years

changed this smiling prospect; he lost my father, & my eldest brother (who might have come the nearest towards the supplying of his place) was, by being in the army, in Scotland, in France, & Germany, and every where, far enough from knowing what was going on at the India House, or in Bengal, where the rapacious avarice which caused such havoc, still grew upon the gratification of it. Not content with the plunder of the natives, it would wrest from our own people certain privileges in trade which had before been enjoy'd amongst them in common.

"My poor brother, who by the old long established, but comparatively slow, method, was by that time got into the council, kept struggling against innovations, & what he thought oppression, and resisted temptations which by many were found too strong to be resisted. In the mean time his family remained in profound ignorance of what was going on; their fears were twice allarm'd by hearing of violent revolutions, but they were told all would go on well afterwards; and this lethargy was not broke by now & then a letter from poor William, because he did not write to us on these affairs, & we were content with hearing of his health, & seeing by his stile that he remained with the same turn of mind that from his infancy had grown up with him. To show what this was I will quote a pas-

sage from the last letter I ever rec'd from him. 'In one of your letters you desire me to give you my sentiments with regard to returning to England, &c., which I shall give you with the greatest pleasure & with the utmost freedom. As I never imagined that happiness depended on great riches, so have my desires always been bounded by a middling & easy fortune, and such I esteem that to be which puts me on a level with my friends in that respect, tho' should my fortune prove much less I could be content. As to India, tho' I have not found it very disagreeable, further than as it is distant from the persons with whom I have proposed to myself to spend my happiest days; yet it is (without the consideration of particular connections) in my opinion much inferior to England, owing not to the country or climate itself, but to the people who inhabit it.'

"Such were the sentiments of a young man of eight & twenty, who has been accused in England of carring on a ilicit trade, tho' that trade was free by the words of the original grant of their settlement. It was indeed just at one time forbid by the directors here, tho' their then governor, and those most favoured by them, were more largely engaged in it than any body; and they soon after grew powerfull enough to make a monopoly of it. My brother, during the short time he was chief of the factory at Patna, had a very advantageous

part of this monopoly offered him by the wretch whom the Governor & some others had put at the head of the province, & who at that time so much wanted to gain my brother that he would not only have made this grant to him, but he sent him a present of a considerable sum of money, without any conditions annex'd. My brother immediately returned the last, & declining the first, sent an account of it to the Governor & council; giving it as his opinion that it was unfit for a private man, & ought to belong to the company.

"But this is but a small instance of his disinterestedness when compared to his voluntarily putting himself into the power of this very monster as an hostage, in order to obtain the release of a man whom he thought more capable of being usefull to his countrymen. The dreadfull catastrophe is known, and this is a subject on which I could never open my mind but to my incomparable friend [b]. We were soon afterwards trembling for another brother's life, which was attacked by a most dangerous illness, from the effects of which he has never intirely recovered, and I dared not speak the feelings of my own breast for fear of other fatal consequences. But she, who during a dreadfull suspense of more than three months, had (in the midst of scenes of gaiety & disapation) been unwearied in her endeavours to get

[b] Lady Palmerston, formerly Miss Pole.

intelligence that could give relief, as soon as the fatal truth was known, left the place where she was pleased, & sure to please, to come & shut herself up with me, & hear my gloomy thoughts, and see the dismal countenances of all. Nor did she come as if she was performing a duty which might be thought owing to a long intimacy; but she came with a heart full of sympathy, & a mind awake to every thing that could give a moment's ease.

"Sensible of the justness of my affliction, she partook of it, & never breathed one word of blame, till long, very long after, when she used to condem me for searching for papers & publications, with which she alone knew how I tormented myself. Then, how many things did her good sense suggest, aided by her almost irrisistable manners, as she tried to give my mind a softer turn. I have more than once answered her with roughness, and it is not long since I found a letter of hers in answer to one where I had said my mind was then in such a state I could hear of her death without emotion. This could not abate her kindness, she only answers me, 'Believe me, my dear Miss Hay, what you say about me *is madness*,' and she takes occasion from it to show the absolute necessity of getting my thoughts into some other channel, & of practising more submission to the will of Heaven. Since I have lost her

these thoughts have been confined within my own breast, by the fears of further sufferings to my family; and these fears have prevailed so much that I have never ventured to mention my desire of imploying a certain £500 left me by my brother in putting up a marble to the memory of my father & the two brothers I have now no more. Now I have mention'd this, I ought to say that before my brother set out on that fatal deputation from which he never return'd, he made his will, in which he disposed of the very moderate sum he had acquired by a 12 years' residence in that ill-fated country.

"He with great judgement & justice left something more than half of it to my brother, the rest to be divided between my sister & myself; part in present, & part after my mother's death. Nor were some poor natives of that country forgotten. Three of them he particularly names; and notwithstanding the vile character that has been given to that race of people, he calls them old & faithful servants. But to return, tho' his love to his sisters & just desire to have them equal appeared, yet he seem'd desirous to show that the longer acquaintance which my age gave me was remembered by him, & added to me the £500 which I have ever intended & shall keep sacred to the purpose I have mention'd.

"Judge, my Lord, of my opinion of your humanity when I can send you such a letter as this?"

Letter from Mrs. Canning.

THE father of George Canning had ventured to make a marriage of affection with a woman, whose letter, here given, shews her to have been gifted with rare endowments, although money and birth were wanting. This marriage brought down upon him a parental vengeance under which he succumbed; not, however, before he had left, in his son, a legacy to his country far richer than any of that wealth, the want of which had been visited so heavily upon him. His youngest brother, father of the distinguished diplomatist, whose loss at a patriarchal age England has lately had so much reason to deplore, nobly stood by him, and shared in the displeasure of their father. The second brother, however, purchased what cannot but be considered an ignominious favour, by consenting to the unjust treatment of his other brothers.

How little did the senior Canning dream of the lustre that was to be shed upon his name by the descendants of those whom he so cruelly treated.

Mrs. Canning (mother of George Canning) to Viscountess Nuneham (written when she went upon the stage to pay for her son's education at Eton):—

"*London, January 24th*, 1774.

"Madam,—I have great pleasure in the obligations I find myself under to your Ladyship, as they are probably the only means that wou'd have honoured me with an introduction to you. Indeed my misfortunes, however grievous in themselves, have abounded with consequences the most flattering. Attracted by them, the Duchess of Ancaster became my friend, and attach'd by their continuance she still remains so. Scarcely can I restrain my gratefull heart from pouring its tribute to her goodness, from saying what comfort, what consolation, what self consequence I derive from it. But your Ladyship knows her, and all eulogium is as needless as this digression may seem foreign to the business of your letter to her Grace.

"Accept, Madam, my most gratefull thanks for all the good offices you have done and mean to do me; tho', in justice as well as gratitude to your Ladyship, I must confess, that from any application to my father-in-law I cannot hope that success which alone cou'd compensate for the trouble

you wou'd take, & honor you wou'd confer on me in the trial. My fear is founded upon long experience of his inflexible severity, not only in my case, but that of his own children. In order to justify his conduct to them he has always pleaded some offence on their parts ; to justify his conduct towards me he lays nothing to my charge but not having brought his son any fortune. How he will support the charges against his children a day far distant must prove, & particularly against his eldest son, whose universally acknowledged merit was all the jointure he left me, all the possession he had to bequeath to his orphan boys, and yet, proud even in the midst of poverty, no other cou'd have been more estimable.

"The charge against me is just, and, therefore, to his mercy only have I appealed, but his mercy was not to be obtain'd. Your Ladyship desires me to be particular, and however painful and humiliating the recital, I obey. Upon the death of Mr. Canning his father wrote to me, informing me that he was acquainted with that event, and with his having left a son, and declaring that it was his intention to give me forty pounds a year, not more, and that in England, not in Ireland. Circumstanced as I then was, the faculties of mind and body almost absorbed in a lethargy of sorrow, it is not surprising that I did not consider the subject very accurately. I wrote to him, thanked him,

& said little more. This, however, was so far of service that it rous'd my mind, and restored in some measure the power of thinking. My dear boy, just beginning to talk of that father he had for ever lost, & another infant expecting to be born, called upon me to plead their cause; I did so, but without success, I remonstrated, sollicited, tried every effort to touch his heart, or to alarm his pride, yet so as to lay no claim in my own right, but theirs; nay, even for them, rather to beg than demand. He replied, but it was to tell me that I had nothing to expect from him. Again I tried, and still I tried in vain. He reason'd upon the justice of refusing me support because I had not brought his son a portion.

"At last he condescended to write to me to apologize for some expressions of his which had given me unnecessary pain; and then, of his own free will, promised to increase my allowance (or rather my children's, for he repeated his resolution of doing nothing for me) five pounds in the half year. However, on account of my lying in, which I expected to be in October, he said he would pay it me in that month instead of November. I have an heart that delights in being gratefull; I thanked him for this consideration as if it had been an adequate provision, yet, tho' I blush for him whilst I write it, justice compels me to add that I never received a line nor a shilling

from him from the time of that promise in August till the January following, and that was in return to a notification which I sent him of the birth of my youngest son, almost nine months after the death of his father. And here I must offer up my gratefull adoration to that divine power who alone cou'd foresee this cruelty, and who in the very month of October, when I was so treated by him, raised me up those friends through whose intercession I became an object of the royal bounty, and, from the humanity of the parent of her people, received a supply to save me from the consequences which might have attended his unexpected breach of promise; nor did they leave me there, but, by their unceasing goodness, have rais'd me from despair, & supported me under the formidable trial which has established me a publick character.

"Encouraged by their continued countenance & protection, I hope the best consequences from my present undertaking, and I believe it will be prudent in me to hope at least to rely only on my own industry for myself. As to my children, to them I trust his justice will be exerted; they are his own innocent unoffending posterity, and being capable of no crime are liable to no punishment. This I wou'd fain hope, but shou'd I be deceived, shou'd injury be offer'd them, I have the firmest confidence in the Father of the fatherless, & the friend of the widow, and in those kind substitutes

of Heaven who have undertaken the pious trust of guardianship over them. If my sons have rights, justice will make good their claims; if they have not, they will at least have the knowledge of their situation ascertain'd; and I, in bringing it to a trial, will have the satisfaction of knowing that I have done a widow'd mother's duty. With this view have I made the great sacrifice of a private to a publick life, that I might keep my children in the face of the world in opposition to every effort that has been made to plunge them in an obscurity where friendship herself might forget & leave them.

"Still, I own, it wou'd give me pleasure to live upon the most friendly terms with all the relations of an husband so deservedly dear as him whose loss I shall ever mourn. His father nor his mother I have ever seen, the latter never corresponded with me. His brothers are both well known to me; the elder, now in Ireland, has I believe always, on every occasion, so conducted himself as to keep well with his father. I sometimes hear from him, and the most affectionate letter I ever had from him was the last, written avowedly for the purpose of congratulating me upon my success upon the stage. As to him[a] your Ladyship mentions as having lost his father's favor by his late marriage, he is a most amiable

[a] The youngest brother, father of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe.

young man indeed, beloved by every body who ever knew him, and however unfortunate in being an object of that severity which never softens, must surely be under the protection of heaven, & entitled to the reward promis'd to piety like his. From the moment I became a Widow, he has by every kind and tender attention endeavour'd to soften the horrors of my situation, and to supply the blessing I had lost; to my children he has ever shewn the fondness of a parent; and the blessings of the widow & fatherless which hourly fall upon him, will, I trust in God, be effectual to procure him long uninterrupted happiness.

"Nothing, Madam, but your commands cou'd excuse the length of this letter, I am honor'd with those for my apology & shall not offer any other. Unentertaining as a narration of this sort must necessarily be, it has truth for its ornament & you have humanity to feel entertain'd whilst you pity. I mean not this as commonplace civility, for tho' I have not the honor of being personally acquainted with you, from the manner in which the Duchess of Ancaster mentions Lady Nuneham I am convinced of her being such a character as I wish all those to be to whom I think myself so particularly obliged. I have the honor to be your Ladyship's most obedient.

"M. A. CANNING."

Letters from Jane Pope.

THE friend of Siddons, of Pritchard, and of Clive, Jane Pope was one of those laughter-loving, mirth-inspiring daughters of the stage, who charmed the playgoers at the end of the last century. When not professionally engaged she was a welcome guest at the houses of those who cultivated literature and the fine arts. It is a common saying that public taste regulates the tone of the theatre, that where the one is debased the other must of necessity be so also; but it is at least as true that the high-toned actor schools the taste of the public; and in this respect, with one or two noted exceptions, we in these days lie under marked disadvantage as compared with our ancestors.

Miss Jane Pope to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Astrop-Wells, July* 9, 1798.

"MY LORD,—I presume your Lordship did not mean the dinner you gave us should be a secret, if you did you shou'd not have trusted three

women whose tongues have talk'd on nothing else since.

* * * * * *

"You treated us with so much elegance, ease, & hospitality, that we could not chuse but be happy with you & all your agreeable inmates. I hope my exuberant spirits did not run away with me; but that you consider'd me on the whole a pretty behav'd gentlewoman.

"I perceive your Lordship has gone through your evolutions at Oxford with great *éclat*, & as aid-de-camp to your martial maid[a] have come off with great celebrity. Indeed her Ladyship's speech is admirable! I hear it was delivered with great effect; and that notwithstanding the area was large, it was distinctly heard. They are quite the gentlemen those soldiers, & when I saw them performing their exercise they fired for their King & country with all the energy of the heros of Homer & Virgil together.

"By this time you have Miss Fauquier with you, & then you certainly have not an every day woman added to *la belle assemblée*. I see her seated on her favorite bench in the midst of the *champs elysées*, and in view of all the towers & turrets of Oxenforde, as Sheldon's maps would say. You do well not to have those said maps publickly

[a] Lady Harcourt made a speech to the Oxfordshire militia, on presenting colours to the regiment.

view'd, for they would be greatly coveted to make a figure at the Radcliffe & Bodleian libraries[b].

"Will your Lordship have the goodness to give the enclos'd to my Lady Harcourt, & to permit my little party to join their thanks with mine for the honor you did us & the treat you gave us in shewing a place, as Ma^dme^ de Maintenon says, *ou l'on pense avec taut de raison, ou l'on badine avec tant de grace.* I am, my Lord, with great respect,

"Your most hum^ble^ Ser^t^,

"JANE POPE."

Miss Jane Pope to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Feb.* 19, 1800.

"MY LORD,—How shall I thank your Lordship sufficiently for the trouble you have taken about my little self, &, as an Irishman wou'd say, 'and my concarns.' When I have read your letter an hundred times *l'amour propre* will certainly assist me, & I shall at length believe all you say, but beware of making me too proud!

"What you observe of silly fancies is inimitable! M^rs^. Pritchard possess'd herself with the same idea on seeing M^rs^. Porter perform L^y^ Macbeth, & declar'd the world shou'd not get her to make so

[b] These maps were, through a misconception of his rights over entailed property, given by Mr. G. Harcourt to the Museum at York; where they cannot be of the same interest as they were in the county which they portrayed.

unsuccessful an attempt. But as she was an actress *comme il y'eu a peu* your Lordship remembers how that succeeded. However, as there will always be candidates for the stage, how fortunate that every period produces its phenomena. So there are Clives & Pritchards for every day.

"If aught shou'd be repeated respecting the 'command' I hope you will plead for me, & get that charming advocate her R.H. the Princess Elizabeth on your side. In every cause as a pleader she must be invaluable, for her animated countenance is certainly an index of every thing that is irresistible!

* * * * * *

"I must beg leave again to repeat my sense of the obligations I owe your Lordship, and am,

"Yr most obedient

"Humble Sert,

"JANE POPE.

"P.S. I am delighted their majesties have commanded the clandestine marriage, though I unfortunately have no share in't, because they have made Mrs. King, our very clever veteran, supremely happy!"

Letters from Henry Hamilton.

THE Hon. Henry Hamilton was third son of Gustavus Hamilton, Viscount Boyne. He was a clever and accomplished man, and much in favour with Lord Harcourt.

Hon. Henry Hamilton, to Simon, Earl Harcourt:—

"MY LORD,—Your Excellency's condescension encourages me to hazard writing a long letter from this remote quarter, tho' I ought not to suppose that any information I can give will be either satisfactory or entertaining.

* * * * * *

"I feel that I owe it to your Lordship's interposition my being appointed to this government, and I hope to prove myself worthy of your Excellency's favours.

"Since my arrival at this place my time has been employed chiefly in attending to the savages and repairing the fort; the former of these occupations is the most troublesome, but I find it has its advantages. There is an astonishing degree

of acuteness in these people, who are vigilant for their common interests, while they pursue with the greatest keenness their private advantage. They are consummate in the art of War, as far as it can be practiced in a country almost entirely covered with woods, and inaccessible to a force which would act after a different manner from themselves; for which reason I really believe no people, however disciplined, can with equal numbers have a chance of subduing them by arms. Their intercourse with Europeans will effect such a change in the course of even a few years as may render the reduction of them an easy matter, supposing that an unwarrantable ambition should tempt to the experiment.

"They are become almost entirely dependant on us for the necessaries of life; and what may be called 'luxury' with them is making hasty strides towards their ruin. Many of them are exceedingly enervated, tho' effeminacy does not shew itself. Strong liquors destroy them, and in this particular the avarice of traders must defeat its own designs. Many instances of the excessive passion these poor people have for rum point out the humanity as well as policy of restraining the sale of it; as to any tax on spirits to lessen the quantity to be disposed of, I believe it would be ineffectual, for since my coming here that poison has been sold at 32 shillings the gallon, which was bought for 2 shillings, supplies of every kind being cut off (till lately) with Canada. The savages would pledge their arms, their ornaments, I believe their wives, for rum, but the traders are strictly forbid to accept those pledges. I have asked savages why they, who shew so great command of their passions in many instances, cannot restrain themselves in the article of rum; their answer amounts to this, that it seduces their reason before they drink it, as it overpowers it afterwards. What is peculiarly distressing at such a time particularly as this is, that, unless they be gratified in this particular, they would fly to those who would buy them from themselves with it.

"There is a great difference in the manners and dispositions of the several Indian nations, some being far more tractable, less fickle, and less treacherous, than others. As far as I can find, it is not true, tho' generally thought to be the case, that the most civilized are the most vicious; this is, however, fact, that the lessons of Christianity they listen to from the indefatigable Jesuit Missionaries have not *rooted* out national vices. I must not say vices natural to them, tho' some appear to be as inherent as fierceness to a tyger, or mischief to a monkey. The utmost attention, and the threats of quitting them on misbehaviour, cannot effect a change when the warlike spirit is once rouzed. Carnage and cruelty are then too

attractive for all the oratory of the priest; and after having conformed to the most solemn rites of the Romish Church, they will sometimes sacrifice a dog, the usual victim of the Warriors, consult some little Household Gods, sing their War Song, dance their War Dance, and then set out on the most horrid schemes for glutting their thirst of blood. They have, however, this attention for their priests, that they perform these orgies as secretly as possible. I have had the satisfaction hitherto of finding the Indians very manageable, at the same time frequent instances of their fickleness & treachery on former occasions prevent my laying too great stress on their professions, or even their actions.

* * * * * *

"The country possessed by the western Indians is by all accounts equal for various advantages to any other part of the World, but as we have few, if any, faithfull maps of the interior part of this vast country, so, I am persuaded, we have few faithfull accounts. This is not to surprize us: very few people have had opportunity of exploring without running risques which, to my own knowledge, are sufficient to damp such a curiosity as mine. The less a country has been explored, the greater field a traveller has to describe *ad libitum*, and of this advantage the American travellers have availed themselves, from Baron de Hontan

down to Major Rogers. Even father Charlevoix, who, in general, is allowed to be pretty authentic, is taxed by some people for being frequently ingenious where he should have been ingenuous; he has not confined the marvellous to church miracles.

"This particular place has many advantages from its situation; and, many people imagine, will increase considerably, being almost the only part of North America, from the Gulph of St. Lawrence to Florida, that has not felt some shock from the late commotions. Numbers and industry are at present wanting to make the most of what the soil, climate, and other natural advantages would yield to a diligent and industrious set of people; but should some of the Kentish farmers from Pensylvania fly to this place from the tyranny which we hear is exercised by the congress and their adherents, the settlement will soon wear a different aspect. The Canadians owe much of their present comfortable situation to the English who have resided here since the cession of Canada. Ships have been built, black cattle and sheep bred, husbandry improved, and trade encreased. Indeed the superior skill and spirit of enterprize which distinguishes the new settlers from the first inhabitants, will, in course of time, render the Canadians subservient. The furr trade is nearly engrossed at this present by the English traders,

and in every undertaking they outstrip the French people. The French never sowed winter corn till the practice of the English shewed them the advantage of it. They had no Craft above the size of *Batteaux* till the arrival of the English here; at this present there are ten sail of topsail Vessels belonging to this place of different burthens up to a hundred and ten tons. The finest timber for ship building is fallen in these woods, red cedar, white cedar, and oaks of a vast size. There are for other uses, pine, walnut, cherry, ash, hiccory, maple, alder, white & black mulberries, beech, platanus, birch, elm, sassafras, and many other sorts; medicinal and aromatic plants, dying stuffs, &c., to swell the botanical dictionary considerably. The soil is extremely fertile, producing maiz, wheat, oats, barley, tobacco, buck Wheat, pease, & in general all sorts of pulse, roots & herbs. The English introduce good kinds, & the Canadians begin to improve by their example, and enlarge their kitchen gardens.

"Orchards are easily brought to great perfection, but the people are too ignorant as yet to turn them to the account that a Herefordshire or Devonshire farmer would. In general, necessaries of life are so easily procured at this place that indolence is rather encouraged than industry exerted. Fish, fowl, and venison, are had for the amusement of taking them, and a good sports-

man might easily support a large family all the year round. The inhabitants amount at present to about 1500; when the English came among them there were few horned cattle to be seen, and no sheep; there are now about 3,000 head of the former, and 2,000 of the latter. There are some tolerable artificers among the English, but no manufacture is carried on; they have not even attempted curing fish, tho' there is an astonishing variety of excellent kinds, some very large, and which might be dryed or pickled. There are salt springs at no great distance, with convenience of fuel, and water carriage, yet nothing worth mentioning has been attempted yet towards making salt, which necessary article has this winter been sold at two shillings and four pence sterling the pound.

"My Lord, in this little detail I perhaps have not mentioned any thing with which your Excellency has not been already acquainted. I was, however, willing to shew, by my account, that I have all the reason in the world to be satisfied with my situation; tho' it had not been what it is my gratefull sense of my obligations to your Lordship would have been the same as they are. I hope the memory of it will prompt me to act in a manner to deserve, in some measure, the continuance of your Lordship's good opinion. I hope your Lordship has before this time received ac-

counts from this Country of Colonel Harcourt's welfare. Permit me to assure your Lordship that my wishes are most sincere for the honor, safety, and prosperity of persons so near to you as Lord Nuneham and Colonel Harcourt.

"I have the honor to be with the most profound respect,

"My Lord,

"Your Lordship's most devoted and

"most obliged humble servant,

"HENRY HAMILTON.

"*Detroit, Octr. 6th*, 1776."

Hon. Henry Hamilton, now become Governor of the Bermuda Islands, to Countess Harcourt:—

"*St. George's, Bermuda, June 12th*, 1791.

"MADAM,—The master of the 'Nonpareille,' of Bermuda, has in charge to deliver into the hands of Mr. Brickwood, merchant, Lime Street, London, a cage containing a pair of birds for your Ladyship, which I hope may be found worthy to parade the walks at Nuneham, I am not sure if they would not attract notice on the terrace at Windsor. They have been used to a country life; to eat eggs for breakfast, and sometimes a chicken for dinner. I have considered this as too gross a

stile of living for birds of their feather and fashion, and have endeavoured to reconcile them to sago, millet, maiz, or bread. This regimen agrees very well with them, if I am to judge by the brightness of their eyes, which are of the Bunbury color.

"I take them to be the pheasant of the Spanish main; they were brought hither from the bay of Honduras, and are, as I believe, what the bird authors call Curassoa, cock & hen.

"There are persons in the world who condescend to look with complacency on a trifle when offered as a proof of grateful attachment, and would accept a baskett of flowers from a coarse hand accompanied with plain language, as kindly as if Lady Templeton's fingers had twined them into a garland, & the D. of L. or E. of I. had presented it. Your Ladyship has long taught me to hold this opinion. I must not allow my pen the liberty he sometimes presumes to take, of passing from the 1st to the 3rd, and sometimes to the 13th page, but limit his career for the present. With most respectful compliments to Lord Harcourt, I have the honor to be,

"Madam,

"your Ladyship's most faithful

"and devoted humble Servant,

"HENRY HAMILTON."

Hon. Henry Hamilton to George Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*St. George's, Bermuda, Octr. 25th*, 1791.

"MY LORD,—My judgement has proved a just one. It was that persons of a noble mind can set a value on trifles and accept them with kindness as compensation for valuable favors. Diomedes' iron was accepted as sterling. Lady Harcourt has written me a charming letter in payment of two fowls.

"It depends on me to make my advantage of this easyness of disposition or generosity of character by sending coops full of poultry of different kinds; but it is prudent not to overstock the market. You must be informed I have a design upon your Lordship, and I don't know but there is lurking an insidious design upon your purse; you shall however be judge in this case, and your purse have time to recover any alarm that such an intimation may create. Your Lordship may have heard that the most excellent prelate Berkeley had formed a project for the establishment of a university in these islands; his view is to promote the education of youth for the church, and especially for that of Missionaries to convert the poor Indians of North America. That office is now undertaken by the executive powers of the 15 States, who by

dint of powder and ball are hastening the salvation of the poor savages, and depriving them as fast as possible of those lands and that property which no doubt they consider the *irritamenta malorum*, the bird lime which prevents Indian souls winging their way to the Realms of bliss. The Bermuda islands are in a far different condition from that in which the Bishop understood them to be, and the late discovery of their natural advantages is so important[a] to Great Britain that I will briefly state them. They possess ports and harbors of various extent and depth of water. Frigates may be carreen'd, fleets of the first rate ride secure, and in time of war his Majesty's cruizers and the privateers of the island ruin the trade of any adverse power trading to the West India islands, the Spanish main, or the southern ports of North America.

"In the last American rebellion an individual, by his spirited exertions, from this country made a very affluent fortune, and unquestionably occasioned a loss of half a million sterling to the enemies of Great Britain, by taking prizes and disturbing their commerce; his name is Goodrich. Many of the islanders are capable of being pilots to most parts of the W. Indies and continent of America. The salubrity of the air, the excellence

[a] Of course the discovery of steam has modified all these conditions.

of the water, the fish, vegetables, and acid fruits, are well known, and no doubt would prove a great relief to ships whose crews were afflicted with the sea scurvy. The arrival of Troops has lately been announc'd, the fortifications have been repaired, and tho' all have not been put in condition by the engineer, yet the country is, in comparison of its late state, very defensible. A station for a light house has been fixed on by the engineers, which will prove the salvation of numbers, should Government adopt the measure.

"At the distance of eight miles from the great island is a plate of rock 200 yards in length, 70 in breadth, dry at low water; some pinnacles, of the height of 10 and 15 feet, shew themselves at a great distance to navigators who are alarmed at the foaming breakers which range here with great violence; this is no doubt what in some maps is lay'd down as the false Bermuda. This table of Rock has a great base sloping gradually from the surface. Between this and another breaker is a wide channel to a safe and still bason, but the apprehensions of danger have, till lately, prevented these points being ascertained.

"A Naval officer of experience has been two years employed on a survey, taking soundings, &c.; his opinion is that the maritime advantages of these islands are superlative, in which he is now joined by the inhabitants, who have hitherto

been unacquainted with them. Another light house is proposed to be erected on the main island, on an eminence called the wreck hill. These two lights, with the proper directions, will render the access to these islands as secure as it has formerly been deemed dangerous. So many harbors as these islands boast have induced the inhabitants to build their habitations in a very scatter'd irregular manner, expecting to build ships and carry on trade independant of assistance from their neighbours; this delusion has been maintained for many years; at length they see their error, and have attempted to concentrate the trade by building a town near the middle of the island, in Pembroke bay; it is begun, and, under the sanction of the legislature, may in time produce the desired effect. The engineer, captain Durnford, has lay'd it out on a convenient scale & regular plan. The quay is, by law, never to be encroach'd on by permanent buildings; it is about 1,200 yards long, and 80 feet wide. The streets are 50 feet wide, lay'd out at right angles.

"Nothing can be more pleasing to the view than the site of this place, which they honor me by calling after the present governor. Opposite to the town are hills cover'd with wood, interspersed with houses, mostly white, being built of the stone of the island. The water is clear as christal, and a number of wooded islands vary

the scene. It happens that the wreck hill, at the distance of about 9 miles, forms exactly the termination of the view from the head of the harbor; it is of the form of Vesuvius in miniature, but at present nearly cloathed with wood. The Bermudians now build annually about 11,000 tonns of shipping, which sells at an average for £7 currency the Tonn. Berm. Curry to English as 12 to 8. This is the principal staple of the island, and by which chiefly, & being carriers between America and the W. Indies, they pay their taxes and obtain the goods and provisions purchased from foreigners. Till lately the ship builders built without drafting their vessels or employing the scientific rules of naval architecture.

"This, my Lord, is but a hasty, therefore an imperfect, sketch of the state of these islands with regard to maritime matters. I come now to the mention of my design.

"Having in my letters to Lord Grenville stated these matters at length, I ventured to mention to his Lordship the advantages which in my humble opinion would be gained by the establishment of an Academy where astronomy, navigation, designing, geography, naval architecture, surveying, &c., might be taught, emulation inspired, and the youth of this country, & of the West Indies, be educated at a cheap rate, in a healthy climate, far from vice

& dissipation, and the poisonous principles of American Seminaries. The people of these islands are estimated at 14,000, almost every male, black or white, is seaman, pilot, or fisherman; the lands, tho' the most productive that can well be imagined, lye neglected; yet coffee, cotton, indigo, tobacco, sugar canes, and many valuable medicinal plants, grow well; also sarsaparilla, aloes, ipecacuanha (wild), squills, rhubarb (wild), all sorts of pulse, herbs, and roots, and several kinds of grain: but the predilection for the sea makes them in general adverse from cultivation, and the dollars they gain at the salt quays & by navigation go chiefly to America to purchase flour, salt, provisions, indian corn, lumber, and live stock. There is not an acre per head for them to cultivate, yet three fifths of the island are under timber or totally neglected.

"Those who do not go to sea, the lower class, are helpless, indolent, proud, too proud to work, & are sunk in gross habits of dirt & sloth. Education will inspire pride; the youth who are raised by it above the level of their miserable parents will never suffer their offspring to languish in inactivity. The Bermudian traders are active and acute, and those who have served as officers in the King's ships have been remarked for activity, intelligence, & spirit in the service. Upon these grounds I have sollicited Lord Grenville and

others of the Lords of the Privy Council to procure his Majesty's sanction, parliamentary aid, and private contributions, for the erection of buildings, for a foundation with Professor and assistants, for the purchase of mathematical instruments, books, &c.; and in this ends my threat at the contents of your Lordship's purse, should the scheme meet with approbation.

"With respectful compliments to Lady Harcourt, I have the honor to be your Lordship's most faithful and most humble Servant,

"HENRY HAMILTON."

Letters from Mr. Boothby.

THE intermarriages between the Vernons and the Boothbys were numerous. The writer of these letters was second cousin to Lady Nuneham.

Brooke Boothby, Esqr. to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Spa, Augt.* 10*th*, 1777.

"IF, my dear Lord, you have never been under the absolute dominion of the spirit of laziness, you will hardly conceive it possible to pass six months in wishing to write to a person that you love very much & to whom you have something that you are sure will be very agreeable to say; & yet this has literally been my case with respect to your Lordship.

"Our divine philosopher[a] received the portrait with the utmost seeming pleasure, & mentioned in the strongest terms his regard for the original. He hung it up immediately, & when I went the next day he had removed it over his harpsichord, because he said he wished to place it where it would be the most constantly in his view. In a word he spoke of you *d'un ton très animé*, & I

[a] Rousseau.

believe there is little reason to doubt his sincerity upon these points. I left him in January & found him again in June extremely well in health, & his mind more composed than ever I expected to have seen it. I fear, however, that he is much straightened in his circumstances. He has left off copying music, & his whole income amounts to only 1,100 livres a year, which I should think at Paris, for two people & a maid servant, that they are obliged to have on account of M^de^. R.'s ill health, could not be sufficient to procure common necessaries.

"I wish to God the pension from England had been continued to him, & I cannot forgive my Lord Rochford for being the cause that it was not. The history of this fact, which I have from himself, is as follows. When he found the pension was to be continued to him at Paris he was both surprized & much pleased; however, his delicacy felt that there was some reparation due to a country that he was to owe so much to, for his abrupt manner of quitting it, & for any thing that in the moments of *aigreur* he might have said or even thought against it. In the fullness of his heart he addressed himself to L^d^ R., who was then Ambassador at Paris, only humbly requesting that it might be signified to him that his peace-offering was accepted with favour. The best one can say for L^d^ R., & that I think does

no great honour to his feelings, is that the letter was unintelligible to him. Poor R. waited three months *le cœur serrè* for an answer. He then thought he could not with honour continue to receive the pension, & he signified his resolution & the reasons for it to L^d^ R. in terms full of gratitude & respect for the King, & there the affair ended. I have no doubt but that, upon this history, he would be pronounced a madman in all the learned & polite circles in Europe, *car on ne peut concevoir qu'un homme qui n'a pas perdu l'esprit doit sacrifier presque tout son bien a un delicatesse de sentiment!*

"During the six weeks that I was last at Paris I passed much of my time with this 'divine man,' & my love & respect are grown into absolute adoration. I think your Lordship's enthusiasm is little less than my own, & it is upon that chiefly that I venture to found the request I am going to make. You know I am in possession of one of his manuscripts which I thought safest to leave behind me in England. He is now very desirous that the translation of it into English should be finished forthwith, & he even makes it the terms upon which he promises to deliver me the other volumes. Is it not too monstrous a request to ask you to allow me to have the original manuscript sent to you, in order that you should cause a copy to be taken of it and transmitted to me?

I really am afraid it is; I shall, however, order the MS. to be sent to you, because I think it cannot be anywhere so properly deposited as in your hands. If you consider the necessary precautions of secrecy, &c., would render the having it copied difficult or inconvenient, I ernestly request that you will think no more of it. I should propose that the copy when finished should be sent to Mr. Eden, with my name upon it, and with a request that he should transmit it to Mr. Elliot, minister at Berlin—Mr. E.'s address is, you know, in Ld Sufolk's office.

"I passed the rest of the winter very quietly, or perhaps one might say stupidly, at Montpellier. I had the pleasure of finding Mrs. Meynell[b] at Paris in the beginning of June—we came together to Brussels, & there, after having delivered me up her son, as a most precious deposit, we divided, she for England, & me for Germany. God send I may restore him safe into her hands!

"I was much delighted with the manner of Colonel Harcourt's carrying off a General from the head of his army, it is quite like the adventure of one of the ancient heroes.

"I beg the favour of your Lordship to present my very affectionate regards to Lady Nuneham; assure her that I can never pass by the *lion verd* without a little involuntary sigh. It was, I think,

[b] A mutual cousin of Lady Nuneham's and Mr. Boothby's.

at this place that I had first the pleasure of being acquainted with your Lordship, & it is the only circumstance that keeps me in any tolerable good humour with it, for I think the whole *ton* & stile of it beyond measure detestable.

"I fear your Lordship has begun to wish that my lazy fit had continued. This is indeed an unconscionable letter.

"I am, my dear Lord,
"your very faithful
"& affectionate servant,
"BROOKE BOOTHBY."

Brooke Boothby, Esq. to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Marseilles, Dec.* 14, 1777.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The first place I stoped at after I had received the honour of your Lordship's letter was Frankfort, & I had written to you from thence when I heard the melancholy account of the death of Lord Harcourt; at such a moment I did not venture to intrude upon your sorrow.

"I have been here about a month, & have been confined almost the whole time with an aguish fever that has tormented me exceedingly; at present I hope it has left me.

"From the general idea that I have formed of the french I am not at all surprized with the behaviour of your guest. Take them out of their

procedes & exteriour forms, & I think they are essentially ill-bred. They are totally unacquainted with that delicate attention to avoid giving pain which after all is the only true politeness; the rest is nothing but grimace & *simagrée*. When I saw Rousseau last I mentioned to him the circumstance of your Lordship having placed his bust in your *Elisée*, & something of the inscription; R. seemed to be pleased with what I told.

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"I am afraid you never have received the manuscript, & still more afraid of the trouble you may have given yourself in case it has been sent to you.

* * * * * *

"Now I am upon the subject of this manuscript, I beg you will recollect that in case I should die abroad it is my ernest desire that you may be put in possession of it, & that you will acquaint the author with your having it.

"Did I mention to you that when I talked to him about his pension from England, I thought I perceived that it might be offered to him in a way that he would accept it? In my way thro' Lausanne I saw M^r. Brydone who travels with L^d North's sons; I told him the history of the letter to L^d Rochford, &c. He said he had more than once heard L^d North express a wish that he had continued to receive his pension, & that he could venture to say that it would be paid to him

when ever he pleased. If Lord North would carry this charitable disposition a little farther, & consider the weakness of a poor old man, who, from cruel usage & excessive sensibility, has had his intellect a little shaken, so as to write him a letter founded upon what Rousseau wrote to L^d Rochford (which I think I mentioned to your Lordship at length), & offering him the continuation of his pension, it would surely be a glorious action. But perhaps this is too much to hope for, & I rather think our friend would not accept it upon any terms but some acknowledgement of that letter to L^d Rochford. I know not whether I explain myself clearly; as to dwelling so long upon this head I am sure I need make no apology for that to your Lordship.

* * * * * *

"I beg the favour of you to present my affectionate regards to Lady Harcourt; assure her that I felt very sincerely for your late misfortune. I fear it would be a cruel shock to poor Lady Vernon!

* * * * * *

"The uncertain & contradictory accounts that we have of what passes in America are very tormenting. Surely this is the deepest game we ever played.

"I am with the truest regard your Lordship's very faithful, humble servant,

"BR. BOOTHBY."

Brooke Boothby, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Lichfield*, 12 *June*, 1778.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I received the honour of your Lordship's letter yesterday on my return from a second week's expedition on horseback, undertaken chiefly on account of my health. As you imagine, I have had no *signe de vie* from R. It seems certain that either my letters or his answers must have been stopped; as there can be no doubt but that he would have taken some notice of the matter mine contained. At present I have thought it best to send him Lord North's letter, which, tho' it is not exactly what we wanted, may I think effect its purpose. I have endeavoured, without resting too much upon your Lordship's aversion to ministers, for fear of calling out his own feelings upon the same subject, to clear you explicitly of being the object of the Premier's love-letter. I always thought Rousseau had received some payments of his pension before he left England.

"If I was well I could be extremely well reconciled to my present way of life. I reckon it a happiness to be at a distance from the wretched prospect of public affairs, & in a station where it is allowable to wait quietly for the event. . . . ."

Brooke Boothby, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Matlock, Bath, July* 23, 1778.

"I RECEIVED your Lordship's letter yesterday, & am much obliged to you for this kind mark of attention. Your last had already alarmed me, when I saw the account in the newspapers strengthened with many probable circumstances; however, I had still some hope which is now changed into very miserable certainty.

"Your Lordship will I think acquit me of affectation when I tell you that this event afflicts me out of measure. To a person whose passions are awake to few objects the loss of one is heavily felt, & indeed I believe all that remained in me of enthusiasm was directed to this one point. Well had I hoped to drink wisdom & delight at this living fountain for many years to come. The contemplation of that mind so infinitely more beautiful than any other I ever met with was always capable of raising mine to a pitch far above its own; but this brightest part of my future prospect is now closed in darkness for ever. You too, my Lord, I am sure feel much on this occasion, & I will not offer you any consolation.

"I must beg of you to convey the enclosed to poor Madame Rousseau; I fear she may be in immediate necessity, & I want some directions from her in regard to disposing of the manuscript

for her advantage. I send the letter unsealed that you may see what is said of endeavouring to obtain a continuation of the pension. The letter is written in bad French, without care, & just as it came, but if I am understood it is all I want.

"Within about a month Europe has lost the only two really great men of this age, & both of them worthy of the best times. You will not suspect that I mean Voltaire for one, for he was *bien de son siecle.*

"Adieu, my dear Lord, believe me with very sincere regard & esteem your

"faithful humble Servant,

"BROOKE BOOTHBY."

Brooke Boothby, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Lichfield, Sepr.* 14, 1778.

"MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . Upon the whole I fear you will not be much satisfied with the success of my enquiries after the 'precious remains.' Mr. Davenport, from whom we had the greatest expectation, says his uncle destroyed all M. Rousseau's letters; a circumstance that can only be exceeded in incredibility by what I believe to be a fact, which is, that he has the papers, & would be ashamed to have them made public. This I collect from his letter enclosed, his shuffling manner when I talked with him on the subject, & most of all by something that Mrs. Davenport let fall in a conversation with Miss Vernon. I have sent Mrs. Horton (Miss Davenport) an extract from Monsieur de Girardin's letter in his own strong terms; which, if she does not choose to restore the music, she must digest as well as she can.

"I knew the Mqs de Girardin a little in Italy, where he travelled on foot with his son, a youth about fourteen, and I once met him afterwards in Monsieur Rousseau's apartment. I recollect that Rousseau received him *un peu brusquement*, so that I fear he was driven rather from necessity than choice to seek his last refuge at Ermenonville. However, there seems to be a noble warmth both in his admiration of that wonderful man, & his activity to fulfil his last intentions.

"It gives me very sensible pleasure that you should think me capable of writing the life of that 'divine man.' What a noble and useful work would be the history of such virtue, and the analysis of such an understanding! But there must be a Plato to write the life of a Socrates.

"Sr John Lambert has sent me back the last packet I sent to Rousseau containing Ld North's letter, &c., &c., which by some unaccountable fatality was more than six weeks upon the road. I have not had the courage to open it. . . .

"Your very obedient Servant,

"BROOKE BOOTHBY."

Brooke Boothby, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*New Burlington Street, May* 5, 1796.

"I VENTURE, my dear Lord, to send you the reverie of some sleepless nights. I figure to myself a monument in the flower-garden at Nuneham, something like the enclosed, with an inscription to this purport,—

GEORGE SIMON, EARL OF HARCOURT,
CONSECRATES
THIS CENOTAPH
TO THE MEMORY
OF
HIS FRIEND
WILLIAM MASON.

And the following verses inscribed on the wall over the monument, as indicated in the drawing,—

"ODE.

"THESE roseate bowers, these sun-bright glades,
A poet's eye design'd ;
Bade yon dark paths, through tufted shades,
In leafy labyrinths wind.
He found undrest the rustic child,
Of lovely form, neglected, wild,
And modest weeds well suited gave,
No art conceals her genuine face,
Her airy step, her simple grace,
No pedant rules enslave.

"Here the gay warbler swells his throat,
Rejoicing in the spring,
Tunes to his mate the love-taught note,
Or woos on transient wing ;
Here, Queen of nature's fairest reign [a],
Pleased Flora leads the laughing train,
Fresh from the dewy lap of May,
Or wrap'd in fragrant slumber lies,
Or, waking spreads her golden eyes,
To drink the orient ray.

"With all the pride of summer crown'd,
This little Eden glows,
And memory o'er the hallow'd ground
A mellower lustre throws ;
Friends, who to weep his loss remain,
And youths enamour'd of his strain,
To Mason's shrine by fancy led,
Oft in yon shawdowy cave are seen,
Oft pacing slow these allies green,
With soft and pensive tread.

"Oft at high noon, the listening ear,
While stillness breathes around,
Aerial harpings seems to hear,
Of more than mortal sound ;
When evening sheds her grateful gloom,
To bend upon this vacant tomb

[a] Regnum vegetabile.

Sweet melancholy steals along,
Sighs to the breeze in murmurs low,
Or pours a deeper note of woe
O'er Philomel's sad song.

"Blest poet of a happier age!
Though mute thy tuneful lay,
Long shall survive thy sacred page
Beyond life's little day;
Smote by rude time, in tangles torn
When these forsaken groves shall mourn,
No more responsive to thy praise,
Thy moral pure, thy lofty strain,
Shall o'er the maddening passions reign,
The soul to virtue raise.

"I returned to town yesterday something better in health, and ever your Lordship's sincerely

"affectionate Servant,

"BROOKE BOOTHBY."

Letter from the Marquis de Gerardin.

THE Marquis de Gerardin to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Paris, 26th June*, 1781.

"MY LORD,—travels and uneasiness have hindered me from some time to write to your Lordship, but since the favour of your last I hope you have received Rosseau's worcks but now published; having been answered from Geneva that they have been directed to Peter Elmsly, Bookseller in the Strand.

"I think you have Lickewise received the collection of songs, and the subscribers have been satisfyed for the print of thire work. M. Benou sends to me just now a translation by your Lordship, but it must be considered as an original itself, and the best of all which have been made on this dear sujet; but the epitaph to which relate your verses is not mine; this was the first I had made in Rymes;

"*Entre ces peupliers, dans ce simple tombeau*
Qu'entourent ces ondes paisibles,
Sont les restes mortels de Jean Jacques Rousseau,
Mais c'est dans tous les cœurs sensibles,
Que cet homme divin, qui fut tout sentiment,
De son âme a fondé l'éternal monument.

It was but some time afterwas that M. Ducis of the french academy published the following.

" *Entre ces Peupliers paisibles*
Repose Jean Jacques Rousseau ;
Approches cœurs droits et sensibles
Votre ami dort dans le tombeau.

But neither this, neither any other in rymes, has been written on the tomb, because it seems to me a monument must never divert the attention from the celebrated man, on the celebrating as a poetick, accordingly, is written only on the stone,

" *Icy repose*
L'homme de la nature, et de la Vérité.

Only on a bench called the bench of family mothers, and placed on the banck of the water facing the island, I ventured to write those lines to the author of Emile.

" *De la mère à l'enfant il rendit les tendresses,*
De l'enfant à la mère il rendit les caresses ;
De l'homme à sa naissance, il fut bienfaiteur,
Et le rendit plus libre, a fin qu'il fut meilleur.

By the first occasion I shall send to your Lordship a cut one has published of this monument, which is quite of a form antique as his genius, and as plain as the manners of this excellent man, whom too much few feeling men as your Lordship value as he deserves to be.

" M^de^ Gerardin is very much sensible and thancks

your Lordship for his kind rememberance ; we both beg leave to assure Lady Harcourt of our respect, and yourself, my Lord, of our sincere and perfect regard.

" R. GERARDIN.

" POSTSCRIPT.

Icy sous ces ombres paisibles,
Pour les restes mortels de Jean Jacques Rousseau,
L'amitié posa ce tombeau :
Mais c'est dans tous les cœurs sensibles,
Que cet homme divin qui fut tout-sentiment,
De son âme a fondé l'éternal monument.

Cy Git
L'homme de la nature et de la Vérité.

Jean Jacques Rousseau né à Geneve Le 4 juillet, 1712,
Mort a Ermenouville Le 2 juillet, 1778.

For my part I prefer the last as more simple and convenient to his character.

" P.S. The Suit a Law for Songé, being but just now deferred to the Privy Council, and the execution of the engraving being, till judgement, suspended ; it is more and more necessary to publish the above in your publick pages, to engage the public to pity, and not to blame, the poor unhappy distress'd widow, being yet the victim of the flaming rage of the ennemys of the truth."

Letter from Charles Jenkinson.

CHARLES JENKINSON was the eldest son of Colonel Charles Jenkinson, who was younger son of Sir Roberton Jenkinson, the first baronet of that name. He was born in 1727. His education was conducted at Charter House and University College, Oxford. He graduated in 1752, and on subsequently going to London, he was introduced by Simon, Earl Harcourt, to the king; and afterwards, by Lord Harcourt's good offices, he obtained the post of private secretary to Lord Bute.

In 1761 he was brought into Parliament, as the representative of Cockermouth. In 1763 and 1764 he was Secretary of the Treasury; in 1766 he was made a Lord of the Admiralty; in 1767 he became a Lord of the Treasury, which post he occupied for six years. In 1772 he was made by Lord Harcourt (the then Lord Lieutenant) Vice-Treasurer of Ireland and a Privy Councillor.

In 1778 he took the office of Secretary at War; and when Lord North's administration came to an end, he was appointed by Mr. Pitt to the Board of Trade. In 1786 Mr. Jenkinson was raised to the peerage as Baron Hawksbury, and in the same year he became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which office he held till 1803. In 1796 he was advanced to the Earldom of Liverpool; and died in December, 1808. He was succeeded by his eldest son, who became subsequently First Lord of the Treasury.

The first Lord Liverpool was a man of great cultivation, and an author of no mean merit. International law and the principles of commerce he had studied deeply, and he was allowed to have deserved the great recompenses he had received in rank and fortune. He possessed the special confidence of the king, and attached himself politically to Lord Bute and Mr. Pitt, with whose views he was in perfect harmony.

C. Jenkinson, Esq. to George Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Parlt. Street, Decr.* 29, 1777.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I should be very happy to serve Mrs. John Harcourt in the way she desires if it was in my power; I was so fortunate as to obtain some provision for her father in his old age, & I have since been of some use to her family; but at present I have not interest sufficient to obtain for her what she asks, an addition to her income.

"The world are so obliging as to give me the credit of much more influence than I really have, & when I deny it I have seldom the good fortune to be believed. In the management of publick affairs it is true that I sometimes have a share. I am always ready to give any assistance I am able, but never intrude it, & to say the truth, it is never called for but in emergencies, when they cannot do without me. But, in the disposal of offices, I have had no concern since the administration of Lord Bute. Since the year 1761 I have never sollicited an office for myself, though I have passed through many. I have often sollicited for others, but generally without success; &, considering my situation, no one has, I believe, provided for so few friends as I have done. Out of respect to your father's memory, &, allow me

to add, out of personal regard to your Lordship, I shall always be ready to give your Lordship every proof of my friendship & esteem.

"The transaction to which you allude at the end of your letter has long been blotted from my mind. From a sense of my own failings & the knowledge I have of mankind, I have learnt to remember only the good that has been done me. The many proofs I have received of your Lordship's goodwill & affection I am sure I ought never to forget. Permit me therefore to assure you that I am with the greatest respect & regard,

"My dear Lord,

"your faithfull

"humble Servant,

"C. JENKINSON."

Letters from Lady Anne Lindsay.

LADY ANNE LINDSAY was daughter of James, fifth Earl of Balcarras, by Anne, daughter of Sir Robert Dalrymple. Lady Anne Lindsay had two younger sisters, Margaret, who in 1770 married A. Fordyce, Esq., and Elizabeth, who in 1782 married C. Yorke, Esq., nephew and heir of the Earl of Hardwicke; Lady Anne was married somewhat later to Mr. Barnard. Her father died in 1768, leaving six sons and three daughters. Lady Anne was endowed with much liveliness and talent, and was a general favorite in the circle in which she moved.

Lady Anne Lindsay to Viscountess Nuneham :—

"*Brighthelmstone, Tuesday, 24th September*, 1777.

"In being silent to you this week past, my dearest Lady Nuneham, believe me I have every day check'd the emotions of my heart which has tenderly felt for you and for Lord Nuneham.

Even now perhaps my letter may be a too early intruder, but it wou'd cost me more to supress any longer the sympathy I feel for you, than it can cost you to read a few lines.

"I do not pretend to preach to you a philosophy which on such an occasion as this I wou'd not wish you to possess; nor to offer to your affectionate mind any of those trite consolations which people affect to be comforted by, as an apology for not being hurt. At first nature shou'd have her own way, the tears we shed for the loss of an estimable friend are not bitter: they even carry a balm along with them, for their source is amiable & makes us love ourselves. I wou'd only recommend to you to be as little by yourself as possible, & to amuse your mind as much as you can from the gloomy recollections that may sometimes recurr. I shall not be easy about the state of your nerves till I hear from you. I sincerely hope Miss Fauquier will remain with you, & pray make your sisters come also & stay, till by their care & society you get a little firmer than you are perhaps at present.

"How much we regretted that we had left London the very day you arrived, if we had not, possibly this place might not have seen us so soon. You wou'd, may be, have let us come & sit our evenings with you while you remained, &, when you returned to the country, wou'd you have

thought me very officious if I had slipped myself into some spare place in the corner of your coach, to have assisted in nursing you, & to have proved that henceforth I shall be equally interested in Nuneham whether it is gay or whether it is melancholy? 'Tis from knowing people well that this interest grows; a month ago I liked you, & I esteemed you, though I wou'd not have said so much; but a month of a little circle (intirely to oneself) introduces one to the hearts & tempers, and those that suit make friends of each other.

"We are here among a great many others; but this misfortune of your family overtook me so quickly after our arrival, that, in spite of my resolution to be happy, it not only shock'd and stunn'd me, but it has ever since spoiled my amusement, by taking away the spirits that give a relish for it: next week, however, I hope to send you some little account of ourselves. Perhaps you will not thank me for giving you many pages to read thro'; but I do not mind at present what is agreeable to you, I think of what is good for you, & I am sure my letters wou'd not wish to do you harm. Margt sends her love, & I believe will write to-morrow or next day. Tell Lord Nuneham,—but words on paper are not to be translated —take his hand, give it a little squeeze for me, & that is all; I shou'd do it to you both just now if I were beside you.

"I have this moment a letter from Miss Fauquier; she tells me she is with Lady Elizabeth Lee, I trust she will soon return to you. Adieu, & my best wishes attend you.

"Your affect.

"A. LINDSAY."

Lady Anne Lindsay to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Brighthelmstone, Sunday, October 12th*, 1777.

"....This place is better than London at present, to be sure, but we do not find it charming. There are a few women that we live in Society with, & a few men we curtsey to; but, as I have not rapidity of attachment enough in me to make every woman my friend who I lean upon, or who sometimes leans upon me up the rooms, & have not enough of the Miss in me to flirt with the nameless masters this place abounds with, upon the old principle of 'any thing being better than nothing,' I am amused in a quiet way, but not transported. We get a few hearty laughs at home when we eat our eggs & spinage, but are people of much propriety in publick.

* * * * * *

"I think I heard you both say that Lady Pool was a favorite, so I have got acquainted with her, & think she wou'd be to me, were I a man, a very

interesting woman. Did I write to Miss Fauquier of the *coup de soleil*—or, as the Misses call it, *the coup d'œil*—which the poor Duke of Manchester got from the sun riding along the sea side a fortnight ago? it turned his *pericranium* topsy turvy, & gave him a delirious fever, in which his life was despaired of; but now he is quite well, &, tho' he is not equaly liable every day to a *coup de soleil* from any sun or *son*, he meets with many *coup d'œils* from people's daughters, & is just now flirting with Miss Wade, the little Mistress of the ceremonys. Mr. Wade says that to fill his office properly there is no science a man must not be master of; particularly he must know the human heart, & be a master of mankind. I think the court kalender wou'd be the best master of the ceremonys in the world.

"The Dss. of Devonshire realy arrives to-morrow; the Essexes & St. Johns on tuesday. I am glad of the first, & rather sorry for the last; I wished to know the Dss. under the happy auspices of nature & good humour, but I fear the fashionables will get possession of her. I'll try. You like her, & that is a motive for us. The clock strikes one. I cannot say with Young 'we take no note of time but by its loss,' when I am writing to thee, oh thou best of all possible women, but I believe I shou'd conclude, else I sleep so long in the morning that morning visitors at

twelve find the rolls untouched upon the table, & spread our evil fame in the gates of Gaza. Adieu.

"POSTSCRIPT.

"Tell your dear that, as a friend, I advise him to wean his affections from Margt & place them upon me. She will vex his heart out of him next winter—for yr pretty married women are the duce —but that I am a sure card, nor can any change that happens to me be productive of harm to him; advise him upon this point, you that are his friend. Before I write the last scratch I must beg you to tell me how all your spirits are since you went to the country. I dare say you feel better than you expected, for to what evil will not that sovereign good custom reconcile us? you was very right to return immediately to Nuneham.

"Adieu again, & bless you all.

"Yours,
"A. L."

Lady Anne Lindsay to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Rockton, Sunday, Decr.* 27, 1777.

"THIS is not paper where upon to adress the most noble Countess of Harcourt, but necessity has no law, & every family has a something in which it is either splendid or defficient. Writing

does not seem to flourish here at present, for every body is too busy to do right things, and too much amused to do any different sorts of agreeable things than those put in their way.

"After all possible sorts of accidents & difficultys, such as sticking in holes by moonlight, stopping in the middle of hills in the dark, we arrived here, and found a tolerably extensive family; if not exactly composed of individuals one wou'd have gone a hundred miles to be acquainted with, at least such a frame of mind & good humour was spread over the whole that one did not repent having done what was now past remedy. Ten days spent pleasantly is always worth one's money, &, to do all justice, they are very good humoured, and as to the little laughable circumstances which one may sometimes discover, it is against my principles ever to whisper a good story of any person out of their own house.

"We arrived here on tuesday, & were received with all the cordiality which people of little ceremony naturally pay in the country. I am not surprized all the men like this house, & I may say the women too, there is such a perfect ease reigns from the garret to the cellar. Nobody is behaving themselves—the furniture cannot be spoiled—the french cook is a good one—every body has something to do, either in rehearsing, or listening, or playing whist. The actors take

themselves always away to the theatre, so we are not plagued with speeches, but are kept in the dark till the great day of execution.

"There are here Sir Charles & my Lady Buck, the first a perfect original—sings a monstrous good song of his own composition—has a face worth any money in the telling of a story, & is an incomparable Sir Bashful Constant. My Lady you have probably seen; I expected to have found her a younger woman; I dare say she may be amusing to the men in her own stile, but tho' we are very good friends we are not entirely suited to each other. Miss Bertie I like extremely, she seems very sensible, extremely good humoured, & gay without flippancy; her looks are quite good enough to accompany ten thousand pounds, but charming with poverty. Were I a man she wou'd please me better for a wife than Miss Hobart, who is much more the men's favorite, tho' they don't pay her half so much attention; for you know, my dear Countess, they are a nasty sett of creatures, and bow to the mistress of a certain number of guineas whether they hope ever to benefit by them or not. Miss Hobart seems realy a sweet tempered girl, but insipidity is a veil which to me obscures half any body's perfections who possesses it; & yet it is a good thing, in the country it suits very well with the rural scenes, & in London for a young woman it is a

treasure which shou'd be always carried into publick. Mr. Gammon & Miss Lucy Jeffreys (who is much pleasanter in the country than in town), are also here; & a Mr. Oyslead, rather akward & vulgar, but of large expectations. I tired sadly of him every day at dinner & supper, sitting between him & Lady Buck, till happily we fell t'other night into a sentimental conversation upon love & matrimony; the last he said he fully comprehended the propriety of, but the first he realy cou'd neither understand nor believe in at all; that the ladys wou'd look cross to be sure if he were to say so in general, but, as I was superior to that nonsense, he frankly confessed he cou'd conceive no motive for marriage but that of prudence. Hum, said I to myself, this is like telling a man who must live by making of shoes that it is a folly to wear any thing but boots; so next night I resign'd my stupid seat, & left him rather surprized at the manœuvre.

"There is a very agreeable Mr. Money here, a soldier (not of fortune) but 'a soldier of fortune,' who seems an adorer of Miss Hobart's, but by his ideas of what is necessary for comfort, which he has told me, I shou'd suppose it won't do. Charles Monson you probably know; he is the Adonis of my adoration. Scarecrows are to me uncomfortable Birds, but he is handsome, pleasant, & is so like Baleanes, and puts

me so much in mind of him that I am partial. There is too a grave Mr. Fury, who they say has a deal of dry humour, but it is so very dry that I have scarcely yet heard the sound of his voice. A Miss Oyslead, sister to the brother; a Miss Williams, *d'une certain age*, who is one of the actors; a Mr., Mrs., & Miss Dashwood; a stupid Mr. King; with the well bred master, & the good humoured mistress of this large mansion, which is a very large old house, & the surrounding grounds remarkably ugly. O, by the bye (and I did not mean it for a Jest), I have forgot Mr. Berkley, who is realy extremely intertaining and pleasant; and good honest Lady Vere Bertie, who I like much; Sir Francis Molyneux and Lady Ann Howard come to-day, and to-morrow is to be the first regular play.

* * * * * *

"Margt is in good Health, but that fickle Jade Fortune has sent her a swell'd mouth, which you may suppose is not very agreeable to her at present.

* * * * * *

"One very great pleasure and perfection reigns here for which I admire it, altho' the society of men & women is so very large, there is no idol in the sett to which the rest bend. Every woman is attended to—handsome—old—young—ugly—and all are said good-natured civil things to by

the men, none of —— but the post is going, I shall lose it if I don't immediately conclude. . . ."

Lady Anne Lindsay to Countess Harcourt :—

"WHAT *fêtes!* what magnificence! how many *bon mots* from Majesty! what actions of royal benevolence! what traits of Divinity from the Lord's anointed—don't you expect to hear of from this my humble pen? ? ?—? ? ?—you shall hear—(at least all that *we* have heard) for verily and in truth we were not of the party. We sett out from London on Saturday, &, that they might know we were in the country, called on the Amhersts in passing. A huge Waggon & eight fat horses, who seemed each to enjoy (like Lord George G——[a]) a good place under Government for turning tail to what they did not chuse to attack in front, had drawn along her Majesty's dressing case—carpets were hammering down in all corners of the house; pleasure danced in Lord Amherst's face, transcendant happiness in my Lady's; she looked and talked like a fair pea hen, and assured me, upon her honor, that the King had (as yet) never been a bit uncivil, in spite of the intimacy in which they lived (remember I talk wide, but it amounted to that). I flattered her by saying things wou'd come round. In the

[a] Germaine.

course of conversation we found that not a soul was to be at Montreal, but the master & mistress of the mansion. The second rank of neighbours, who had never been at court, were asked to have tea and coffee at the lodge and see the King & Queen, but I am happy to say we were not of that number. One of the party, however, gave me an account of the proceedings, which must have been very laughable.

"Behold assembled at the porter's lodge all those good natured folks drawn up by Lord Amherst to make their curtseys; but no sooner did their Majestys wheel in than Lord A. carried the royal heads to the wrong side of the chaise, by placing himself to the near wing instead of to the right: bad generalship in a generalissimo, by which means none of the mobility cou'd get a peep. Lord Amherst then proceeded on to the house at the head of a regiment of Seven-oakes school boys with gilded caps & a cracked drum; twenty Pyoniers marching before, to shew his Majesty the military ardor of his smallest subjects. As the Queen is immoderately large I think the compliment must have been paid to Hans in Keldar, as the size of the troops render it much more applicable to it than to his Majesty. The company were then requested to proceed on to the walls of the house where there was to be some music; accordingly they (looking very second

best) did so, expecting some of the best performers in every stile; but oh! it was to hear an Ode composed by my Lord Amherst sung to the tune of 'God save the King' by the Chaunters of our country church!—Further the deponent sayeth not, but must drop a curtain over the rest, as I have heard nothing more. I wish the Queen had not gone—if she had staid at home the Prince of Wales was to have been allowed to go, but her Majesty was selfish, & so the poor little fellow was disapointed.

"I wish, my dearest, that I had had a better stock of materials for your perusal; but I can't help it that these Amhersts did not do the proper thing and invite us Noblesse; I think their Majestys might have been the better, & cou'd not have been the worse for our coming.

"Say much from me to your dear Lord, I love that man—but he is ungratefull. Margt is in very tolerable health & sends hers to both; to your sisters present my kind remembrance, & believe me most affectionately

"Yours,
"A. L."

Lady Anne Lindsay to Countess Harcourt:—

"AH! then dear Countess, for thou art very dear to us, have I realy permitted a month to

elapse without writing one scratch to thee; it is too true, for what is two letters begun, and unfinished—nothing at all—for nobody ever believes any body upon this subject; 'tis the same in apologies as in poetry, a poetical license for lying is both given and taken; so, that being the case, my truth will only pass for a very well told fib, and you will hate me for it in the character of my friend, while, in the character of the countess of fashion, you will, like a woman of the world, wink at a falsehood that is civily meant,—and now to business.

"All the news I am possess'd of you shall receive, my dear woman, and so arm yourself against the fatigue of a long letter. The idea of you sitting on the sopha & desiring to hear from me is at this moment before my eyes. Ere you had departed this life a week I took up my pen in the full intention of writing you a long letter, but something came across me. I am the slave of impressions. I found a *quelque chose* that opposed the inclination I felt to make it a very very long, affectionate, and perhaps a tiresome one from its egotism. It was a motive of delicacy, of propriety, of generosity to others, that stopp'd my pen; but it was not any want of affection to you whom I love. Weeks and days have elapsed since, and still I have been silent; but now you shall hear how they have been spent. After you

left us London grew every day more and more desolate; it seemed to me that the town thin'd itself still earlier than usual. We were not, however, particularly to be pitied, as there still remain'd a great many of our most intimate friends. In this stile—each day robbing us of a face we knew—we remained for a month, when we received a renewal of some pressing instances of Mrs. Hampden's to visit her at Coxheath, where she has a house, not upon the heath indeed, but very near it. Accordingly we consented to the measure. I did all I cou'd to make myself an agreeable companion in a post chaise, & to put myself in spirits for the occasion, as I presented myself with two new riding habits.

"A certain great philosopher says, nothing conspires so much to good humour as being always perfectly well dress'd: he is very right; a suit of cloaths frame of mind is as different from a *polonese* as both are from a french night cap temper: but woe unto her who has her ideas ill pin'd & badly powdered; a shabby half dress'd cap which pretends to what it well knows it has no right, always produces a stile of conversation neither assuredly fine nor settledly vulgar, but something between the two, that leaves the opponent at a loss in what manner to judge of the whole.

"Paint to yourself a little summer house on the top of a rock at the side of the high road, where

we lived & eat all day long, from which the fair mistress of the chateau & the dame Marguerite ogled up all the unfortunate passengers with the fascination of their eyes, while I, like a good soul (whose talent for coquetry has for some time layn dormant), painted away in the summer house & let them gossip from the stair case. In this summer house I passed all my mornings, while they walked in the garden, &c., and, if you wish to know amongst all the men in the camp who makes the best *tête a tête*, I can tell you, or answer any (proper) questions, as in that spot I generaly had a succession of scarlet coats, with a few civilians mixed *par parenthes*.

"Before eight we drove up to the camp, where we listen'd to the music on the parade & flirted with ten thousand men, in which we were aided by the Dutchess of Beaufort; (ancient) Mrs. Guerin, General Pierson's old sister, who they say was married about five hundred years ago, but I know it must be a mistake, as she was meant for an ape's wife. Mrs. Danby—Mrs. Dashwood—Mrs. Frazer, &c., Lady Mary Grenville, and Lady Clarges.

"Our own particular beaus consisted of the three generals, Pierson, Moriss, & Frazer, Lord Rivers, Mr. Pitt, Lord Hinton, Lord Westmorland, Lord Althorpe, Sir Horace Mann, Duke of Dorset, Col. Hippsley, Col. Cox, Mr. Grenville, Lord Bamf, & a few more accidental people; but

these in general were our standing dish; tho' I should scarce mention the Duke of Dorset in that way, as thanks to the gods, we had spirit and delicacy enough to let him find out, for once in his life, that the Duke of Dorset debauching all the married women who came in his way, cou'd be overlooked for men of less importance & better character. Of course he did not like any of us at all, found himself cut, and went away. There is a paper in the 'Spectator' that mentions the joys of demolishing a prude; but the joy of demolishing a male coquet is, I think, far more transcendant.

"We had two sad bustles in the camp, one about poor Lord Vaughan, whose head has not been very sound for some time past, but who went quite mad at camp. He was invited to meet us at Gen. Pierson's to dinner,—he dress'd, & put a brace of loaded pistols in his pocket; what his intentions were I know not, but he changed his mind by the way, and turned back. Next day he challenged & knocked down Lord Hinton, but by that time his frenzy was so plain that he was taken up and secured; poor soul, what a dismal prospect it is at five and twenty. No sooner was he gone than Lord Orford arrived, but he behaved pretty well.

"Our second bustle was about the Spy who was taken up on suspicion (being a french man)

of carrying on clandestine correspondings with our enemys about the state of our army. He was a very pretty young man, but it soon appeared that he was only one of cupid's doves who had flown to pay a private visit to a certain fair & benevolent Venus who resides with Colonel Cox. The Generals after examining the fond pair found them innocent of all mischief, saving a little gallantry; but were a little surprized to find in Monsieur de Berges' pockets a list of his debts, in which six hundred pound lent him by —— was one, & some letters from the ——, & other young men of fashion along with it; all, however, is made up, & he has flown back to France.

"We spent a night at Tunbridge which is quite deserted, as is Brighthelmstone. The fear of the French, & the certainty that every body has of their own poverty, leaves them neither inclination nor power of amusing themselves near the sea. The only news I hear is that Miss Cumberland is to be married to a M^r. Hasford, a natural son of Lord Bathmore's, who if we don't lose America, & if he does not lose his law suit, will have 27 thousand a year, & a hundred thous^d of ready money, but there are two Great 'ifs' between him & it.

"But my eyes grow together; it is past two, & I have been accustomed to early hours of late. Marg^t is in good health, & we have got home the

swain Colin[b] with us, which is charming. My Mother and Balcarras are gone to Scotland. We mean to go for Scarborough.

"Tell me I pray (and direct to Harley Street) how you all are, and give my love to your Lord.

"Adieu. God Bless you, & give you as good a nap as I am about to have.

"Yours ever sincerely,

"A. LINDSAY.

"*London, Thursday.*"

Lady Anne Lindsay to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Brussels, Octr.* 10, 1784.

"MARGARET has wrote to me how good you have been to her; it was the sort of intelligence which cou'd not surprize tho' it pleased me; and, as I know you have an equal affection for distant friends, I sit down with pleasure, not to tell you what you already know, where I am, & with whom I have travelled, together with all the arguments *pro* & *con* till I took my resolution, but to say what I have seen since I left you, & to give you an account of the lions on the continent. Altho' I have been extremely continent myself, well behaved, and correct, yet I have been very well amused. Altho' I have lived with princes

[b] Her brother.

and great people, still do I find myself untired by my tour, and more satisfy'd than *ennui'd* by their company. As to Spa, I say little. I ought to have liked it, perhaps, as people in general agree that 'tis a charming place; but, as the chief object which caried me there, that of getting a little french, was defeated by the society being intirely English, I did not feel in charity after my disapointment; indeed I found that it was reckoned a very bad reason by every body, which was some consolation. A report that a certain great personage meant to visit it, tempted us to leave it sooner than we shou'd have done, & go into Holland. Here again I found the folly of friendly prophecys. 'You will be torn to pieces by the Dutch, you will tire to death of the Hague; pray do not think of going, my dear Lady Anne, you will never lose the stink of the canals in your nostrils all your life if you go at this season of the year.'

"Mark the event, my dear Countess, the inhabitants of the Hague, begining with the prince & princess of Orange, & ending with my shoemaker, seem'd to vye with one another in the degree of kindness & attention bestow'd on us,—three times a week we spent the evening & supp'd with the P. & Princess, who is, tho' a cold manner'd woman in general, a very sensible and clever one. The Prince of Orange delights in talking English, and

has, I see, a warm heart to our nation, tho' the politics of the faction at the Hague force him into the arms of France. He is charmed when he is told that he has a family resemblance to the King, to whom, I cou'd see, he is much attached. He regreted much to me that he had never found it practicable to visit England, as he felt himself half intitled to call himself an Englishman; but this he said in a whisper, as the governing party, I find, are desperately jealous of us, & he is reckoned an Angloman.

"The Princess Louisa & the two boys are realy charming little people; there is something pleasing & prominent in her countinance; & I have reason to know it, as I did her picture & that of the hereditary prince for a snuff box, & 'tis realy very like. After spending six weeks very agreeably, we came here the day before yesterday. You have been here, my dr Countess, so I need not say how splendid one part of the town is, & how shabby the other. To-day I dined with the Archduke & Dutchess; she is sister you know to the Emperor & Queen of France, she must have been a charming woman some years ago! such spirit in her countinance, a beautiful hand and arm, & a countinance not very different from the Dss. of Gloucester's. There was no form, no state. She bid Lady Torrington tell me that on our account she dined in company to-day as she went to the

country to-morrow, and was pleased to shew us any attention in her power. The Prince & Princess de Lyn, the Imperial Minister, & the Pope's Nuncio, was all the company, besides Lord & Lady Torrington & I; Mrs. Fritz being confined at home. Upon my word 'tis a jolly Nuncio! a very pa pa bit of the Church I do assure you! making his jests as if they was a part of his calling; but as he is realy a fine fat fellow, I cou'd not help forgiving him.

"Apropos to jests, my french is not a whit better than it was, & I have only acquired a greater degree of facility in saying 'terrible things.' I told a fine man t'other day, who beg'd leave to visit me of a morning often at Paris, that I thought he was right, for it was always agreeable *de faire enfant dans une famille—une enfant de famille* I am sure I have often heard used as a phraze, yet on this occasion, by his answer, I had soon reason to know that I had given him a very extensive office. I certainly shall apply to French while I stay at Brussels, tho' I am convinced people like me better while I talk like a fool than they will do when I speak common sense. I fear, my dear Countess, that there is no chance of seeing you at Paris. The Queen must reap too much pleasure from such a friend to permit you to leave her if she can prevent you. Pray tell her Majesty that we are extremely obliged

to her for keeping her handsome son at home, & pray that no change of plan may take place till our return. Margaret wrote me of your royal visit, & of the delight they had in seeing your gardens, which, she says, are now (with the grounds) divine.

"My dear Lord I kiss you at this distance—'tis a Scotch custom, therefore forgive me, or if you dislike it, return me my kiss by Lady Harcourt.

"Adieu, my dear Countess, you know that I am yours,

"A. L.

"If you are so good as to write to me, you will find me here till the first of Novr, and even then, if I stay no longer, my letters will be taken good care of."

Lady Anne Barnard to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Paradise, Cape of Good Hope, Decr.* 31*st*, 1798.

"I THINK I see you smiling, my dear Lady Harcourt, at the date of my letter. Paradise! you say, is she gone mad to call her country house at the Cape so, or is she doing it in derision?—neither, my dear Lady H. In the second place (which is begining in an Irish way), I never deride any thing, and, in the first place, the only proof of madness that the John Bulls find in me is my

being contented with every thing as I find it, and with this name amongst other things, which we do not think of changing for *Barnard cottage*.

"What song is it which describes the Lady Barnard looking over her castle wall, and spying from thence a courteous Knight? I forget; but I have a castle, & a wall with battlements, fortifications, & cannon, over which I look, & an observatory on the roof of my wall, from whence I may on the parade see many dozens of very courteous scarlet coats. I cannot say my last sight which I saw from this room was pleasant, tho' it was noble; it was the sight of a midnight fire which burnt down the military stables & five store houses belonging to government and to the East India Company. What a living blaze it made! one clear volume of transparent flame, which was render'd so by the cordage, tar, pitch, rum, &c., which was there lodged, & the effect of the rum & brandy casks taking fire was that they went off like cannons. Mr. Barnard, as soon as he saw it, ran off to do all the good he cou'd, & had the satisfaction of saving one man's life and two horses, but one hundred & fifty of the last were burnt, & the dammage, I find, is estimated to Government at £150,000; but then I hope we shall be able to do without some of the things which have been consumed, & they perhaps need not soon be replaced.

"I begin my letter vilely upon the broad side of every thing. Let me, before I go on, tell you, my dearest Lady Harcourt, that, altho' a thousand avocations, some of them unavoidable, few of them matters of choice, have prevented me from having given you some account of myself sooner, that there exists not in Europe a heart more kindly gratefull to you for all past goodness to me than the one I have in Africa. I never thought to have carried mine here, but I find difference of latitude & longitude makes no difference in sentiments of affection to friends dearly loved at a distance; indeed it is in the distance to them that I find the only ill in being in this country; for, as to London, its amusements & dissipation, I wou'd not give a rush for them, having tasted, tried, and found that tho' they are all very well if conveniently enjoy'd (for I despise none of them), yet that they are no way necessary to one's happiness.

"It is a little creed of mine, my dear Ly Harcourt, that occupation is (take it all in all) the thing most conducive to preserving the human mind in a good state of health, the sworn foe of *Ennui*. If our occupations are not always exactly to our taste, still we are never tempted to hang ourselves from apathy, as idle satiety does. Since my arrival here, on my own principle I have had no reason to tire, for I have had

more to do than I cou'd well perform, and have often regreted that in the distribution of time so little cou'd be given to my little tastes & fancys; which, cou'd I promote, wou'd be far more entertaining to me than those household cares which often make a Martha of a person who cou'd be a little above it if conveniency permitted. I cannot say that I have any one sphere here, being a sort of Ladyship Jack of all trades, a housekeeper, botanist, collector, paintress, upholsterer, Lady Bountifull, cook, dairy maid, every thing but politician, and in that I do not meddle, nor with the carriages & horses, which are the department of *mon mari*.

"The news papers, I find, gave me a splendid sett at some races here a twelve month ago; races much against the good will of our dear Governor, & equally so against Mr. Barnard's. Tho' possessed of a very good sett & the best post chaise in the colony, so little did I regard the ostentation of the matter, & so anxious was I to shew myself willing to live on the most friendly terms with the natives, that I went in a Dutchman's carriage, with his wife & family, & not in our own.

* * * * * *

"One of the pleasantest months that I have spent here was the month of May in 1798, when we made a little tour into the interior of the coun-

try, to see what sort of people the Dutch were who lived at a distance from the petty traficking of the sea coast; the said traficking makes them still more grasping & illiberal than nature made them, which certainly gave to their dispositions a considerable tendency that way. I liked the farmers much better than the people of the Cape; they are very hospitable, & bestow largely of whatever their farms raise.

"This class of people have, according to the Dutch policy, been allways as much oppress'd as possible by those in power, & a distinction between them & the nobles of Cape town is kept up which is almost as great as between them and their slaves. They do not ask them to sit down in their presence, or, if they do, it is a high honor. The good people were surprized at our civility, & gratefull. I made a point of inviting to the castle every person at whose house I received civilitys; the invitation pleased them, but I saw they regarded it as they wou'd a french *politesse*, which sounded well & meant nothing further. Our companion on the tour, a Dutch man, told them that they ought to go to the castle to see the *Secretarius* and his *Vrou*. They said they durst not. 'What, when you were invited?' True, but that was in the country, at the castle the great folks are proud. He brought them in groups, with their hats off, & eyes thrown down; never saw I such frighten'd

souls. As I am allways at home at the hour they generally come at, which is between six & seven in the morning, I have soon put them at ease; when the husband finds himself wellcome, & a dram given him, he instantly runs off to fetch his wife, & she brings her large self, her sheriden (children), & all her slaves—Hottentots & dogs. It wou'd make you smile if you cou'd see me sitting at breakfast with some of these people, the men with their hats on, the women dress'd in their short linnen bed gowns, worsted petticoats, Manchester shawls, handkerchiefs, and mob caps, with beef & the brandy bottle before me, the children & slaves all eating in one corner of the room. The dogs are often of the party, but as subordination descends all over the world when strength & capacity lord it over weakness, so the Hottentot's dog, or slave's dog, does not presume to expect the crumbs which fall from his master's table till he has dined. I tried a little dog with a piece of savoury buck, but he look'd in the slave's face & did not presume to touch it till he had his authority.

"I believe the Dutch 'quality' think me a little vulgar for spoiling 'such creatures,' by treating them with civility. I shall not tell them that I think they are quite as good as themselves. The Hottentots are a mild race, indolent, gentle, obedient, & very gay; a large part of them are

now converted to Christianity by the Moravian missionarys sent here from Germany; these people are detested by the Dutch, as they teach the natives to be independant of service, a very very little industry being sufficient to raise food enough for all their small wants. Several Hottentots declined remaining here in the gardens of Mr. Barrow working for him, as they said they cou'd not hear every day 'God's Word.' When he stated to them that they wou'd make some money & be able to procure many necessarys for themselves, they said, 'Yes, but that they were contented without them, as they did not regard what they had in this life when they were sure of a better one if they were good & listen'd daily to the Word of God.'

"This argument of the Hottentots, running counter to some people's views, creates a pause about the propriety of sending more missionarys to the more distant parts of the country; but I think the point of view which wou'd stop it so paultry when compared to the principle which wou'd render so many people happy & contented Christians, that I am a zealous advocate for extending Christianity, & with it good order, hope and happiness. The Boshe and Caffre men have been reckon'd both cruel sorts of people, but they are very necessitous, & kept poor by themselves, being at constant war with each other & with the Hottentots,

to seize what perhaps raging hunger demands. Lord Macartney, with great wisdom, thought to remedy this ill by giving to each his district, & his property; putting it in the power of each nation to live by industry; and he sent to each a stock of cattle, sheep, & such things as were most necessary. The good effects of this I have already heard narrated by the person employed to settle the boundaries & deliver the cattle; the people profess themselves happy and obliged, and humbly request that they may also have a missionary sent them 'to teach them God.' I had as much interesting & pleasant conversation with this man as the want of language cou'd permit. He was the best looking Dutch Man I had seen in the colony, & exactly like Doricourt, or Dorival, the priest in 'the Simple Story.' His interpreter, a Hottentot, was with him, who translates between him & the Boshe men—an intelligent savage—ugly enough. I ask'd him if he was married—he said, 'O plenty of wives' (in Dutch). I reply'd that this was *Nacqued*, for that he shou'd have one wife only; he said he had not wanted more, but that the others were fond of him & wou'd come.

"Jan. 1, 1799. A good new year to you, my dear Ly Harcourt! many of them and all happy. You have begun it with a tiny bit of good luck (if my vanity may permit me to flatter myself that your affection will reckon it so), and I'll tell you

what it is: a ship sails for St. Helena to-day which carrys my letters, a very large packet of which I trusted *Mon Mari* to carry to Cape town at 7 miles' distance; my letter to you was not finish'd, & I told him it shou'd go in the evening by another conveyance; he put all my epistles in his pocket book, & this moment I find that he has lost it out of his pocket, & a hundred dollars, which I chiefly regret, as it will be the means of my letters being all destroy'd.

"This being the first day of the year all slaves are free from this morning at 8 o'clock till to-morrow morning at that hour; three were here from a neighbour bringing me some flowers, some green almonds, & a couple of ostrich eggs; they followed Mr. Barnard's curicle down the hill, & I have not a doubt pick'd up the pocket book; on opening it the hundred dollars wou'd pay for the entertainment they were going on to, there being slave dances & all sorts of merryment to-day. But my poor letters! you may judge by your own that I do not write short ones to those I love, & from such a place as this I think it scarce fair to send off an empty sheet, while so many things may be put into it in some degree interesting because uncommon. I dare say they will all be torn in pieces, & a week's work lost, with a quantity of little anecdotes & historys that I cannot have courage to begin over again. Glad I am that this has not

shared the same fate, & that it may still reach your hand. . . .

"Your affectionate friend,
"ANNE BARNARD."

Lady Anne Lindsay to Lord William Gordon. Touching the praises bestowed upon, and the love he was making to a handsome married woman, to whom he was not really attached:—

"CEASE, Gordon, cease—nor longer plead a cause,
Where all thou dar'st to hope for is applause;
Why would'st thou wish Melvina's heart to prove
The transient smiles—but lasting woes—of love?
For better uses by unerring Heav'n
Those powers persuasive to my friend were given;
Talk not of love—that Belial's tongue, I fear,
May teach thy heart to feel itself sincere:
Oft have I seen the Orator elate
Inspire himself, and grow in the debate;
He speaks—and feeling—thinks his theme evinced,
Convincing others, is himself convinced.
The pleasing forms, by lively fancy dressed,
May steal their way into the reas'ners breast;
And there, like pelicans, unnat'ral brood,
Prey on the fostering heart that gives them food.
Ah! stop thy verse, nor sing that cheek, where grows
The modest lilly and the blooming rose,

Lest the sweet lilly to the rose give place,
And blushes overspread her lovely face:
Ah, stop—avoid the hapless Sculptur's art,
Who taught his hand to desolate his heart;
Nor thou, like him, impatient of controul,
Indulge thy genius to enslave thy soul.
Ah, stop thy verse, nor wish her heart to prove
The transient smiles—though lasting woes of love."

Letter from Mr. Brown.

LANCELOT BROWN was born in Northumberland in 1715. He was by profession a landscape gardener, and he created a revolution in that art by adapting his views to nature, rather than by endeavouring to make nature subservient to his own. He obtained the sobriquet of "Capability" Brown, from the frequent use he made of that word in describing his operations. Stowe, Blenheim, Richmond, Nuneham, Wimbledon, and innumerable other places, received the marks of his genius.

He was the welcome guest and associate of those whose properties he beautified; and he realised a large fortune in his profession. He served as High Sheriff for Huntingdon and Cambridge in the year 1770. He died suddenly in the year 1783, being at that time in charge of the gardens at Hampton Court.

Lancelot Brown, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Burghley, August the 27th*, 1778.

"MY LORD,—I fully intended to have had the honor of waiting on your Lordship before this time; but I was prevented by two causes, one was that of illness, & being with that, and business, and the addition of hot weather, totally exhausted; the other was that I had not a man to spare at that time to have put in execution any thing we might determine. I am now at Lord Exeter's, on my way to the north, from which journey I mean to make Nuneham my road home again.

"This is a great place, where I have had twenty-five years' pleasure in restoring the monument of a great minister of a great Queen. I wish we had looked at the history of her time before we had begun so unfortunate and disgracefull a War as we have been ingaged in. I shall ever wish happiness to my King & country and remain, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's
"most obliged & most
"obedient Sert,
"LANCELOT BROWN.

"P.S. A line directed for me to Hampton Court will always find me."

Letter from Sir Joshua Reynolds.

TO write an account of Sir Joshua Reynolds would, of course, be superfluous; he was born at Plympton in Devonshire, in 1723; the son of a clergyman, who gave him every encouragement to cultivate the art for which he shewed such an early inclination. At the age of eight young Reynolds had studied the "Jesuit's Perspective," and he continued more or less assiduously to devote himself to the pursuit of painting till, in 1746, the portrait of Captain Hamilton, father of the future Marquis of Abercorn, brought him into public notice.

Captain (afterwards Lord) Keppel then took him by the hand, and gave him the opportunity of visiting Rome. Reynolds returned to London in 1752, and soon rose to the head of his profession. On his return from abroad he formed the acquaintance of Johnson, and furnished three papers to the "Idler." His manners were polished and

agreeable, and he was blessed with a constant flow of spirits; ever ready to be amused, he was always, from his varied knowledge and his pleasure in imparting it, a constant source of amusement to those who had the good fortune to be amongst his intimates. He died in the year 1792.

I shall here, however, only concern myself with Sir Joshua in relation to Nuneham. The earliest of his pictures there is one of himself by himself, done in crayons, at the age of seventeen, and presented to George Simon, Lord Harcourt, by Sir Joshua's niece, the Marchioness of Thomond. The same lady also presented Lord Harcourt with several of her uncle's pen-and-ink sketches for his large pictures, which are valuable chiefly as authentic productions of the great master. Drawing was not Sir Joshua's *forte*, and he was generally very careful to destroy all his first ideas on paper. The next pictures in point of date are two, of Simon Earl Harcourt and of George Simon Viscount Nuneham, kit-cat size; for these two pictures the painter

received twenty-four pounds ten shillings; they were painted in 1755. Next comes a picture of the Duke of Dorset, presented to Lord Nuneham by Lady Cecilia West: this picture is much faded, and was apparently painted at the period when Sir Joshua was trying the experiment of mixing wax with his colours—as a consequence, when it became necessary to clean the painting, the heat employed in the process melted the wax, and spoiled the picture. About the same time another picture of Lord Nuneham was painted, which is also much faded.

Next comes a beautiful picture of Maria, Duchess of Gloucester, which is also, unfortunately, somewhat faded; and then a large family group, of Lord and Lady Harcourt and the Hon. W. Harcourt; this picture is pronounced by many competent judges to be the finest-finished picture which Sir Joshua ever painted. The list finishes with a large picture of Mary Countess Harcourt, and a small full-length picture of the Duchess of Gloucester. Sir Joshua was a frequent visitor

at Nuneham, and assisted in the restoration of some of the pictures there.

Sir Joshua Reynolds to Earl Harcourt :—

"*London, Sep.* 18, 1778.

"MY LORD,—I am endeavouring to settle my affairs, working hard and postponing as much business as will enable me to take three more days of pleasure, tho' I thought my holydays were over for this summer, but Nuneham is so pleasant both indoors and outdoors that it is irresistible.

"My nieces desire their most respectfull compliments, are extremely happy with the thoughts of seeing Nuneham, and extremely proud of the honour of waiting on Lady Harcourt. We propose setting out on Tuesday next, unless I hear to the contrary, and hope to get to Nuneham by dinner time. I mention Tuesday only for the sake of fixing some day; any other would be equaly convenient.

"I am with the greatest respect
"your Lordship's
"most humble and
"obedient Servant,
"JOSHUA REYNOLDS."

Letter from the Earl of Abingdon.

WILLOUGHBY BERTIE, Earl of Abingdon, was born in 1740; he succeeded his father in 1760. Whilst he was an undergraduate at Oxford he recited congratulatory verses in Latin to Lord Westmoreland, on his installation as Chancellor of the University, in the Sheldonian Theatre. The performance gained him much credit. Lord Abingdon was elected High Steward of Abingdon in 1761; and married, in 1768, Miss Charlotte Warren.

Earl of Abingdon to Earl Harcourt :—

"MY DEAR LORD,—Permit me to express my obligations to you for the manner in which you accepted the Venison I took the liberty to send you. I had not sent it if I had not respected your character, and esteemed your truly to be admired conduct. On your acceptance of it, therefore, the favour was conferred on me. Not so with the great Duke[a]; but methinks I wou'd not quit a right though he were the great King.

[a] Referring to the claim which Lord Harcourt made, as Lord of the Manor of Stanton Harcourt, on the Duke of Marlborough, as possessor of Blenheim, for venison from the Royal Forest.

My bucks I wou'd have, and there is no better claim than that of *prescription*, which your Lordship has. When right is with us we have only to face such men, and their coward hearts fail them.

"You ask what is to become of us? Read the following account I have just received from London, and then give the answer to your own question.

"'An Express, with three officers, S^{r} John Rockby, Col. Paterson, and Major Crew, is just arrived from New York, the news terrible, though not more than your Lordship knows I had anticipated; Clinton, in his march from Philadelphia through the Jerseys to New York, was exceedingly harassed, and at length attacked in his rear; the conflict was bloody, and the victory with the Americans; several hundreds were slain. Col. Monckton, Col. Trelawney, & many other field officers were killed. The remainder of the army got into New York; but here commences the dismal tale: on their arrival they found L^{d} Howe with all his fleet compleatly blocked up by D'Estaing's squadron; Washington with thirty thousand men investing New York, and but ten weeks' provisions left in the town. The Admiral and General have sent for succours from this country, and say that if they are not speedily relieved they must be forced to surrender prisoners of war

both navy and army, consisting of twenty thousand seamen and as many souldiers. This country you know can send them no succours. The tragedy is drawing to a conclusion; I can assure it to you for a fact that Mons^{r} De Sartine has pledged himself to the French Court to land forty thousand men in England in the course of this summer. The Brest fleet, consisting of 38 ships of the line, is at sea.

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"Such is my account, and which I leave with you for your reflections upon. Lady Abingdon unites with me in respect to you & Lady Harcourt, & I remain, my dear Lord, with the greatest regard,

"Yours sincerely,
"ABINGDON.

"*Rycot, Wednesday morn*, 1778."

Letters from Lady Mount-Edgcumbe.

LADY MOUNT-EDGCUMBE was only daughter of Dr. John Gilbert, Archbishop of York; she married in August, 1761, George Edgcumbe, who had succeeded his brother in the Barony of Mount-Edgcumbe in the previous month of May. Lord Mount-Edgcumbe was created a Viscount in February, 1781, and an Earl in August, 1789. Their son Richard was born in September, 1764, and married in February, 1789, Sophia, daughter of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

Lady Mount-Edgcumbe to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Mount-Edgcumbe, Sunday, Augt. 2nd*, 1778.

"A THOUSAND thanks to you, my dearest Lady, for your kind letter. If I had not received it, I shou'd equally have wrote to-day to acquaint you of the important event of the return of our noble fleet, which now at this moment, all but the ships

themselves, are in our house. Admirals, Captains, & Secretaries, make it their *rendez-vous*, & A[l] Keppel his lodging, till they re-embark; therefore, you may depend upon it that I know the truth, & you may depend upon it that I tell it.

"Know then that it was on Fryday sennight at eight, the 24[th] of July, that our fleet just came so near the enemy as to make preparation for action, but unluckily for us the wind was then against us, so as to put us into such a situation that the junction must of necessity depend upon the French, which was the case for four days; & so long it was never made on their part; but on Monday morning last, the wind changing, A[l] Keppel with all haste advanced towards them, & an engagement follow'd, in which our commanders proved their own extreme bravery, running through the whole fire of the French fleet, some of our ships having four & five of the French firing upon them at a time, without being able to keep any regular order of battle. The French were anxious only to disable our ships that they might secure their own retreat; they therefore directed all their fire at the masts & rigging of our vessels, & then by degrees retired, & when night came on they took the opportunity to make their escape. *Vive la bravoure française!* Mon[r] de Chartres never came into action at all.

"If they had not thus disabled our shipping

(which was their point), most certainly we should have gain'd a very compleat victory. As it is the French are much damaged & have lost many lives. The superior excellence of our officers has been fully proved, & they will be all out again in a week at farthest, but I doubt the French will never give them an opportunity to finish the blow; for the case undoubtedly has been that they believed us much less strong than we are, & upon that faith came out, & finding so great & so noble a fleet they avoided us as long as possible, & when they cou'd do it no longer, they tried to get off as soon & as cheap as they cou'd; by which they are certainly extremely dishonest, tho' it has saved their total destruction.

"Al Keppel is in great spirits, so perfectly happy with his ships, officers, & men, that he will take no addition at all. A ninety gun ship is here ready to join him, but he refuses it, & says it is impossible there shou'd be a more perfect fleet than he has already. Now this is fact, & very comfortable fact, & I beg you will take comfort from it yourself as I do, & tell it to whoever will like to hear it. I do assure you the account of the heroic deeds of our men, which are not at all lessen'd from the inevitable circumstances which prevented their bringing home the trophies they deserved, fills me with intense admiration of them all (there is not one exception);

and I am delighted to think that, for as long as it takes to make the ships ready to go out again, I shall be called upon to attend I suppose at least upon twenty of these noble creatures; & I absolutely feel proud to be sutler to the fleet.

"This place is thrown open & a table ready for them every day, &, if the last blade of grass wou'd comfort the lowest of their men, he wou'd have it. I am not quite equal to all the warmth I feel towards them, having not been well in the old way, & being weak, but the spirit is so willing that while I have one leg left I shall hop upon it to attend them. I wish with all my soul you was here at this moment; you have no idea what a most amazing sight it is: thirty sail of the line now lying under a terrace of shrubbs, as if only to ornament our park; &, besides, such millions of cutters, boats, & vessels of every shape & size, moving about to carry to them all they want, that it really is the most wonderful scene I ever saw. If the French had had one grain of spirit and come out to fight, a number of their ships wou'd have been added to our fleet. *Mais Violà précisément ce que sont les français*, bragg, boast, presumption, & when it comes to the time which requires true courage & sober resolution, then they fail; carrying *l'esprit national* along with them. I dare say at this moment they are bragging of a compleat victory over us, & singing *Te Deum* for the

wonderful deliverance of Mon[r] de Chartres, who never was in action after the first two shott.

* * * * * *

"Whenever our fleet sails again I shall remain upon my knees as long as they are in sight in prayers for their success, & trust in God they may yet be bless'd with victory.

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"Adieu, my dearest Lady, my Gentlemen are coming, & I wou'd leave the whole world to attend them. My dear Richard arrived in perfect health yesterday, & I am glad he is here to be animated by such a scene, & lifted above the dull walk of mere common life. God only knows what scenes he may be call'd forth to; this is just a time to make young folks brave, & old ones resign'd. Once more Adieu, my dear Lady; write to me pray; give my love to L[d] Harcourt, & beg his pardon for the trouble of enclosing this[a], but I cou'd as soon hold the winds as L[d] Edgcumbe. What he is now it is quite impossible to tell you, with all these men about him, whom, as his fellow officers he respects, as particulars he loves, as our national hope he looks up to, & from his combined situation of sea & land he is devoted to. He has not a thought or step employ'd but in their service. In short,

[a] Directed under cover to Lord Harcourt, as she could not at the moment obtain a frank from Lord Mount-Edgcumbe.

our house is a ship. I go to dinner & supper by a whistle, & I believe all that discomposes me is that I am afloat & not ashore, & am sea-sick without knowing it. I don't like to leave off talking about them any more than I ever do to leave you, *mais il le faut absolument.*

"Once more then Adieu, my dearest Lady, & be assur'd that, if I go a volunteer in the fleet (which I think possible), I shall always be sensible to what I leave while you are ashore, & to the affection with which I am ever yours,

"E. EDGCUMBE."

Viscountess Mount-Edgcumbe to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Mount-Edgcumbe, July 4th*, 1789.

".... ON our way from London we were so fortunate as to be upon the same road one day as their Majesties, & to have the happiness to see the joy & delight that was spread through all the places they pass'd, & indeed upon every step of the way. When we came to Salisbury we heard they were expected there the next morning at nine o'clock. As they were not to change horses at the inn we were at, we thought we shou'd have a better opportunity to make our bow at some other place, but resolved not to go on without having that honor; we, therefore, pre-

ceded them some hours from Salisbury, & passed through a road lined with every human creature of every rank & every age, in chariots, coaches, carts, on horseback, upon asses, old men & maidens, young men & children, all come to see, & hollow, & scream their true loyalty & joy. We shared it most earnestly; every field & every hedge was rob'd of every flower to wreathe garlands & crowns; every village paid its rural homage, & every town its best devotion.

"At Blandford we stood foremost at the inn-door to make our bow; the notice their Majesties took of us, & the gratitude we express'd for it were totally lost in the shouts & acclamations of the crowd, & I verily believe from the general language that if the king pleases to advance to the westward, the applause & gratulation will only increase. Get but out of the reach of party, & honest nature speaks aloud, & exerts its utmost power to testify its most faithful duty & respect.

* * * * * *

"The King & Queen look'd perfectly well & perfectly happy; the Princesses I did not see, for, being nearly thrown down by the multitude who were passing behind me, I grew very much frighten'd, & was with difficulty dragg'd out of the crowd.

* * * * * *

"Lord E's figget cannot be express'd; the bed

is not come; the plate by sea is not arriv'd; the wind is contrary; the glasses are not come for the library; not a moment's peace will he have, nor sit still a minute, as if for him to keep in perpetual motion wou'd hasten the waggon or alter the wind. Nor shall any of us be much more at rest till the best we can pretend to do is done.

* * * * * *

"The Queen, the Princesses, & all the Ladies, wore riding coats of the Windsor uniform, which is a new dress taken up this year.

* * * * * *

"Adieu, my dearest Lady, I shall hope to hear from you soon. The best respects of this house most sincerely attend upon Nuneham.

"I am ever most gratefully & affectionately yours,

"E. MT.-EDGCUMBE."

Countess Mount-Edgcumbe to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Mount-Edgcumbe, Thursday, Augt. 27th*[b], 1789.

"I KNOW not how to begin the most flattering, the most interesting, the most memorable history of our lives, my dearest Lady, but by dating it

[b] Lord Mount-Edgcumbe had been made an Earl nine days previously.

from the first moment of their Majesties' arrival at Saltram on Saturday, Aug^{t} 15th, at three o'clock. On Sunday the 16th Lord M^{t}-E. & myself, & Lord & Lady Valletort, went over after the hour of chapel, & had then the honor to see their Majesties; & myself & Lord & Lady V., who had not been presented, had that honor. Lord M^{t}-E. had been at Weymouth & was presented there. We were all received with gracious goodness, condescension, & most distinguish'd favor. We remain'd at Plymouth dock on Sunday night, to be ready to pay our duty to their Majesties & be seen the next morning.

"When they came with the three Princesses to see the dock it was a charming sight, consisting of many boats attending their Majesties, & hundreds to see them; the river was literally cover'd with boats, & once for all I will tell you that as often as the King mov'd upon the water his boat was preceded by that of the Admiral with his blue flagg hoisted, the Admiralty with their red one, & then the Royal Standard in the King's boat; every time they appear'd they were saluted with twenty-one guns by every ship, every fort, and every battery; the sound was most tremendous, and the show sublime. Their Majesties saw the docks; went on board the Admiral's ship; return'd to take some refreshments at the Commissioner's house; & went home by water

with the same parade & the same salutations. Hundreds of boats followed, & one, that always kept close, was row'd by six women, & steer'd by a seventh, all dress'd in white, & a sash over their shoulders, with 'God save the Queen,' which I think was a pretty idea. The acclamations were always as loud pretty near as the firings.

"Tuesday the 18th was the day on which their Majesties went on board the 'Southampton,' & went out to see the manœuvres of the fleet, with which they were much pleased. The Royal family are all such sailors, & so delighted with the sea, that no weather affects them. All the three Ladies Courtown & Waldegrave suffer so much, that they are kindly indulg'd & permitted to decline the sea. Their return from the fleet was the finest sight I ever saw, a repetition of their advent.

"On Thursday the Queen rested all day, & the King went alone to the cittadel, & the gun wharf, & came over to see the fortifications on our side, where we all met his Majesty at his first step of landing. Lord E. said he was very proud to have the honor of seeing his Majesty on this side the water, but he was so kind & so good natur'd as to say, 'I am not on this side the water & will shutt my eyes;' knowing that we were to have the honor to pay our duty to him the next day at Mount Edgcumbe, & that we shou'd wish the

place might not be forestall'd. The next day, Fryday the 21st, was the great day of our lives, when we were to expect the honor of receiving their Majesties here at ten o'clock. Judge what was our misery when, after some days of the finest bright clear sun that ever was seen, this morning in particular at 7 o'clock it was so hazy and foggy that it was long doubtful whether it shou'd rain; thank God it mended, tho' not to the degree of brightness that cou'd satisfye us, & at ten, exactly in the same order of boats and with the same salutations, their Majesties & the three Princesses came by water from Saltram to Mount Edgcumbe. It being very low water, there was a stage of considerable length covered with green baize carry'd out to meet the boat, so that their Majesties step'd out upon it, & from thence ascended a landing place cover'd with baize which brought them upon the lawn.

"Immediately on their landing, our battery saluted with twenty-one guns, a band of music under the trees struck up God save the King, & twelve little girls, all newly dress'd in white, with garter blue sashes, straw hats bound with the same blue, & the motto round them, & each having a straw basket trimm'd & tyed with blue, strew'd flowers before their Majesties till they came to the ascent of the avenue. There open carriages & the horses & servants all with blue

cockades attended to bring them up to the house. His Majesty drove the Queen in a little cabriolet with two ponies; the Princess Royal order'd me to attend her in another with one horse; the Princess Augusta & Lady Courtown were in another, Lady Elizth Waldegrave drove the Pss. Elizth in another, & Lady Caroline with the Gentlemen walk'd. 25 steps leading to a pavement before the house were carpeted, as also the pavement.

"The Duke of Richmond's band, immediately on their Majesties' entrance to the house, began 'God save the King.' After walking about the old rooms, their Majesties again set out in their cabriolet, and all the rest in their former order, to drive over the place. Their Majesties drove till they came to a zigzag too narrow for a carriage, & then they walk'd the whole walk down to the sea. In the course of it is a little corner call'd Mrs. Damer's corner, in which are some fine myrtles, & there the Queen display'd the kindness of her heart, & her delicacy in shewing it. She gather'd a bit of myrtle & said, 'I will carry this home, & plant it myself in a pot; I will send it home, & always have it, & always keep it.' What an Angel's mind, always thinking of what is to make happy! On the return from this walk, & long loitering in a seat at the bottom of it, their Majesties got

again into their carriage & were carry'd to another alighting place, from whence they walk'd gently to the house, honoring me in the way with a visit to my flower garden, which they were pleased to approve. From thence they set out afresh to take another drive round an amphitheatre of wood, which we reckon a capital feature, & from thence return'd to the house. We had dinner at four. Their Majesties were seated in two damask elbow chairs on one side of the table in the hall, in front of the great door; the three princesses in three smaller damask chairs without arms; &, when they were pleased to order Lady Courtown, the two Lady Waldegraves, Lord Mt E. & myself to sit down, we had stools brought in. Lord E. sat alone at one end of the table, next the King. I sat at the other end nearest the Queen.

"After dinner Lord E. & I presented to the K. & Q. a small table with a glass of water & napkins; they did not sit long after dinner, at which, thank God, they appear'd to eat with good appetites, but went up to the bed chamber & dressing rooms, which we had furnish'd & prepared in case it shou'd have suited their Majesties' convenience to condescend to lodge with us. Coming down stairs again, they went into the library & the attics over it, & then left the house. They got again into their carriages between six & seven,

& went down to the orangeries, & from thence drove round the battery to the place of embarkation. This was a beautiful sight; the river was cover'd with boats, I suppose not less than two hundred, with uplifted oars looking like a wood. The shores resounded with acclamations, the battery fired, a band of music played, in short nothing cou'd be equal to the situation to us, honor'd, flatter'd, & made happy by every instance of goodness, kindness, & condescension. I do not know how we shall ever learn to be common mortals again, for sure I am that our royal guests were heavenly & were framed to bless mankind; thus their Majesties have left an immortal stamp of glory on this name & place which no time can ever efface. Richard will never rest till he has fix'd the memory of it indelibly on a triumphal arch, durable & handsome, recording to his family for ever the great event of their Majesties' presence. . . .

"Ever affectionately yours,

"E. MOUNT-EDGCUMBE."

Letter from the Duchess of Devonshire.

GEORGINA, DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE, was daughter of John, Earl Spencer, and wife of William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire. She was born in 1757, and married in 1774.

Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, to Countess Harcourt :—

"*November 21st*, 1778.

"MY DEAREST MADAM,—I cannot resist writing to you to tell you how much delighted and touch'd I am with the charming verses you sent my Mother. You are so good to me in them, that I dare not say how much I like them.

"Though rude my thoughts in wayward numbers move,
Though wild in artless accents they pursue
The uncouth lays, yet still I must approve,
Since they call'd forth so sweet a strain from you.

"Thus through the vale perchance a current flows,
Unknown it trickles through its narrow bound;
Yet on its bank the scented vi'let grows,
And, as it runs, it wakes new fragrance round.

"I hope, my dearest Madam, to have soon the pleasure of meeting you in town.

"I am ever affec^ly^ yours,

"G. DEVONSHIRE."

Letter from Mr. Miller.

O. MILLER, Gentleman-in-Waiting to the Duke of Gloucester, to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Wednesday, June 7th*, 1780.

"My dear Lord,—I conclude you are anxious to hear some accounts of our riotous mobs; they increase hourly, & their lawless cruelties become every day more shocking. On Monday they were employed in pulling down houses in Moor Fields, and setting them on fire; on Tuesday morning they gutted the house of Sr G. Saville; after which a party of guards were placed to prevent further mischief; at three o'clock on the same day the House of Peers met; the few who came were not a little frighten'd I assure you, notwithstanding the streets were lined with soldiers, light horse, &c., for their protection. I should except, however, some among those few who were less terrified than others; among the latter I have the pleasure to mention my master, who, I can assure you, was not the least discomposed.

"Ld Sandwich in attempting to come to the House had his horses' reins cut, was wounded in the face, and, by the vigilance of the military, narrowly escaped being torn to pieces. The House

of Lords soon adjourned without entering on any business whatever. We afterwards went to the House of Commons, which seemed to be in a state of the utmost confusion; twenty people attempting to speak at the same time, each differing from the other, except in this point that the House of Commons refused to enter on the business of the petition till all tumults had subsided, and till the members could have free access & regress from the House without molestation.

"Sr G. Osborn brought in a message from the mob, who informed him they were ready to repel the military force as soon as it should think proper to attack them. Ld G. Gordon appeared in his blue Cockade, and pass'd but an unpleasant hour during their debates. Mr. Fox was very great, and spoke in favor of liberty of conscience. Coll Herbert and a few others prevented Ld G. Gordon from going to the mob till the House broke up: the members I believe most of them got in safety to their own houses in the evening. The mob partly destroyed Ld Mansfield's house (I mean every thing but the walls) in spite of the military force, who shot six of the rioters and one woman; they were lying dead this morning in Bloomsbury Square. They have broke open Newgate; set all the prisoners of every denomination at liberty, and destroyed every thing they could find. Many of the ministers' houses are

threatened; 'tis supposed Lord Stormont's will be destroyed to-night, and Ly Archer's, as a protectress of French players. Caen Wood was destroyed this morning by a party of three thousand Canaille. I am now preparing to go to the House with the Duke, & am yours till the evening.

"I am just returned from G. House; in our way to the House of Lords we were informed that the Lords were adjourned till Monday next. The King's Bench is on fire, and the new prison, and all the prisoners at liberty; twenty thousand men are now employed in destroying these prisons. A Proclamation was issued to-day desiring all his Majesty's peaceable subjects to keep within doors as measures of a very different nature were to be put in execution. It is most certain the military are to act at discretion without the magistrates to-night. I dread the event, for the mob in the evening will be heated with liquor, and the consequence must be serious. Every moment brings an account of some fresh disaster. I am now informed they have seized many arms & military stores from the artillery ground, and it is their object to give (as they call'd it) the guards a dressing.

"The Herts & Hants militia are encamped today in Hyde Park. Six regiments are making speedy marches hither; the rioters also declare on their part that the Scotch & Welsh are marching up to their assistance. It is my firm opinion by to-morrow we shall hear of much blood shed, and I should rather hope that some decisive stroke may be struck, for to be at the mercy of a deluded Mob is not a very eligible situation; but whatever it may prove, whilst I think I can be of any service to the Duke, I certainly will not quit my post. The instant the tumults cease, you may be assured, my Lord, where my pleasure & happiness are so much concerned I shall be extremely anxious to turn my steps. Believe me, with my love to Lady H., your ever faithfull & affectionate,

"O. MILLER.

"My Mother begs her respects, and desires me to inform you she is your frighten'd humble servant.

"At this moment I hear the mob in Portland Place.

"My servant tells me fifty of the Mob lie dead round the King's Bench, and it is supposed that they mean to pillage the Bank. I will write to-morrow."

Letter from Lord de Ferrars.

GEORGE, LORD DE FERRARS, was born in 1753. His father was George, fourth Viscount Townshend; his mother was Charlotte, only daughter of the Earl of Northampton, and, in right of her mother, Baroness Ferrars of Chartley; she died in 1770, when her son became Lord de Ferrars, who in 1784 was also created Earl of Leicestershire. His father, who succeeded Simon, Earl Harcourt, as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1777, was created Marquis of Townshend in 1787. After his father's second marriage Lord de Ferrars no longer found a home at Raynham.

Lord de Ferrars to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Wimpole Street, Saturday, June 17th*, 1780.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I ought to ask your forgiveness a thousand times for my unpardonable long silence since I had the favor of your last very kind letter, inviting Lady de Ferrars and my family to take refuge from the late tumults at Nuneham, as we cannot go to Raynham; I

trust, my dear Lord, that you will have the goodness to over look my neglect in not writing before, which I can assure you did not arise from inattention (for then it had been unpardonable indeed in me), but from this circumstance, that the whole of the late disturbances are to this moment as unaccountable as they were in their first appearance. There abound various reports that they have been raised & supported by money from our national enemies, and I am told that a certain great law oracle, who is shortly to be, if he be not already, raised to a seat in our house, has been hardy enough to affirm that the public would soon be apprized of certain great names as being concerned in these late tumults, which would much surprize them; that he had his reasons for not naming then the persons publicly, but that if any friend was desirous of knowing them he would inform him in private.

"This I have been told, from pretty good authority, my Ld. L——ghb—r—gh, that is to be, publicly declared in Lincoln Town Hall, when he went to be promoted for his extraordinary deserts to the degree of Sergeant. What foundation his Lp. has for thus talking time will shew; for my part I am as little inclined to ascribe the late tumults to the interference of the persons with which we are now at war, as I am to lay the account of them to any of those personages

to whom Ld. L——ghb—r—gh would fain have us impute the cause of them. They were, I believe, instigated by a set of miscreants who sought the first opportunity to commit every species of devastation in this metropolis; the meeting of the protestant association furnished a favorable opportunity, & the watchword or pretence for their outrages was 'No Popery.'

"The circumstances which ensued after the riots, as Ld. Geo. Gordon's being sent to the tower, &c., your Lordship has no doubt seen in the public papers, as also the reconciliation between the royal brothers; but the most remarkable circumstance is Ld. Amh—st's letter to the city to disarm, which I presume you have also seen in the papers; that is a measure which I trust the spirit of this country will never suffer, and I flatter myself it will occasion an extraordinary unanimity in people to associate for the purpose of strengthening the civil power more effectually, so as to render the interference of the military less necessary. A committee to form a plan of association has met in our parish; I am of it, & y^{r} Lordship, and almost every body of distinction is named to be of it; we meet from time to time at the vestry to consider of proper regulations, and I hope the plan we have resolved upon will be such as to render any future interference of the military totally unnecessary. Our meaning is not merely to associate for our defence for the present occasion, but for the future.

"Ministry are in high spirits at the news from America; it is to be hoped they will make a good use of it (i.e. be the more inclined for peace with that continent), but I fear much that they will persevere in their mistaken system, and, on the strength of this late success, again cherish the idea of subjugating America, which they never can do; for tho' Clinton has made Charlestown capitulate, yet he is obliged to sail back again immediately for New York, for fear Mons^{r} de Ternay's squadron sh'd get there before him, in which case it would most likely fall. . . .

"Your Lordship's most obliged

"humble servant, & faithful friend,

"DE FERRARS."

Letters from Mr. Jerningham.

EDWARD JERNINGHAM was the youngest brother of Sir W. Jerningham, of an old Norfolk, Roman Catholic family. He was born in 1727, and was educated at Douay. He was a good classical scholar and well versed in modern languages. His chief bent was poetry, in the pursuit of which he met with considerable success. Mr. Burke bestowed upon him the following compliment: "I have not for a long time seen anything so well finished as his poetry. He has caught new fire by approaching his perihelium so near to the sun of our poetical system."

His last work was entitled "The Old Bard's Farewell:" it breathes a spirit of grateful piety for the lot in life assigned to him. He was no bigotted religionist, and enjoyed the intimacy of most of the eminent characters of the day. He died in 1812.

Edward Jerningham, Esq. to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Park Place.*

"DEAR Ld HARCOURT,—Tho' the papers give you early intelligence of the progress of the political anarchy in France, they do not relate the adventures of individuals. Your regard for the Duchesse de Biron will excuse my troubling you with an accurate history of her late distresses.

"Mrs. Damer had this morning a letter from the Dss of Richmond with the following particulars. Made de Biron had retired to Rouen as a place more free from commotions. The town was perfectly quiet when she first went there, but since the infamous transactions of the tenth, in Paris, the town of Rouen became disorderly; the populace gather'd in the streets and threaten'd whoever adhered to the better cause. This alarmed our meek friend, who immediately engaged a ship, but the mob said they would stone her if she offer'd to quit the place. She then, finding that her staying did not pacify the tigers, put on the habit of a peasant boy, and in this disguise stole out of the town by herself unnoticed, and contrived to get to Havre, where she engaged a fisherman to convey her to Portsmouth in a large boat without a deck. Till the tide was favourable she lay concealed in a hole where they stow the tackle. A

violent storm blew the whole time; however, she got safe to Portsmouth as to her life, but her spirits were so exhausted, and her mind so agitated that she conceived the Frenchman (to whose house she was carried) was a friend of the Jacobins, and that he meant to send her back. This idea so forcibly struck her imagination that she grew delirious; and finding she cou'd not get out of the door, she took an opportunity of getting out of the window, and walked the streets in a distracted manner. Captain Conway most fortunately met her, and brought her to an inn and sent for a physician, and also sent an express to the D. of Richmond, who came to Portsmouth the next day with Lady Louisa Lennox & a maid servant, and convey'd her to Goodwood. She is calm and perfectly recover'd as to her mind.

"M^rs^. Damer begs her best comp^ts^. I beg you will present my respects to L^dy^ Harcourt.

"I am with the most
"perfect esteem
"y^r^ faithful h^ble^
"Servant."

Edward Jerningham, Esqr. to Earl Harcourt:—

"DEAR L^d^ HARCOURT,—I have frequently knocked at your door to enquire after you &

L^dy^ H. I should have enquired *proprio calamo*, but I had nothing entertaining or interesting to communicate, so my vanity kept me silent.

* * * * * *

"Various and contradictory reports are floating relative to the general topic of invasion. There seems to be one consistent belief that an attempt will be made, unless we are prepared, and then my opinion is we shall not be honor'd with a French visit. M^r^. Pitt thinks otherwise. Curiosity, or rather a patriotic solicitude, induced me to go twice to the House of Commons last week, I heard M^r^. Pitt each time. He spoke under the conviction of Buonaparte's attempting to 'Invade, plunder, massacre, and annihilate this island;' these were his actual words; perhaps he meant only to quicken the pulse of preparation, but he rather impressed the house with terror. The offer *Monsieur* has made to the king in the name of all the emigrant gentlemen, is a spirited, highly-flushed, chivaleresque dedication of the French noblemen to this country. The King I understand is much pleased with the offer, but has declined accepting their services, from a delicacy that their fighting might irritate the French government to treat with rigor their relations and friends who have returned to France.

"A foreign bookseller in Albemarle street had sent a Shakespeare magnificently bound to the

custom house to be forwarded to Hamburgh, and from thence to some gentleman at Paris; the officer at the custom house performed the usual ceremony of opening each volume to see if there was any paper concealed between the leaves, and, finding none, he replaced the books in the box; as he was putting one of the last volumes back, he perceived the binding in the back swell out a little, and, entertaining some suspicion, he cut the binding, and found a small map of one part of the Thames; he then open'd another volume which contained an accurate map of the Tower; and so on successively, and every volume had some treasonable chart.

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"Be so good, my dear Lord, when you favor me with half a line to direct to me, Cossey, Norwich, Norfolk.

* * * * * *

"I presume your garden is in great beauty, & that your flowers all go smiling on. . . ."

Letter from the Duke of Richmond.

CHARLES LENNOX, third Duke of Richmond, Lennox, and Aubigny, was born in 1735, and married in 1757 Mary, daughter of the Earl of Aylesbury. As Colonel of the 72nd Regiment he was present at the battle of Minden in 1759, and received the thanks of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick for his gallantry in action. He afterwards was appointed one of the Lords of the Bedchamber. He was a great patron of the polite arts.

The Duke of Richmond to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Whitehall, April the* 10*th*, 1786.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I lost no time in shewing to Mr. Pitt Mrs. Henrietta Hay's Letter, and informing him how much both your Lordship and myself interested ourselves for the family of our very respectable friend Colonel Hay. Mr. Pitt expressed much concern for Mrs. Hay's situation, and great regret that it was not in his power to continuance the allowance which Miss Hay seems

to hint at. Mr. Pitt observed that quartering upon places was not only illegal but a practice of the worst tendency, as any minister might under such a cover take for himself or his friends the best part of the profits of most employments unknown to the publick, and that a diminution of the value of the place, below what Government had thought proper for the due execution of it, was a temptation to the possessor to make good what he paid out of it by taking improper fees or gratuities; that, besides these general objections, the employment Mr. John Pelham held ought never to have been a sinecure, & that the person who did the duty had an assurance given him that on a vacancy he should succeed to the employment, which has been accordingly given to him. I am persuaded your Lordship will be struck as I was with the propriety of these reasons, altho' they are unfavorable to our wishes.

"Inclosed I return Mrs. Hay's letter, and beg leave to assure your Lordship of the very sincere esteem and regard with which I have the honor to be your Lordship's

"Most obedient

"and faithfull Servant,

"RICHMOND, &c."

Letters from Mrs. Siddons.

SARAH KEMBLE was born in 1755, at the "Shoulder of Mutton" Inn, at Brecknock. Her parents were strolling actors. The girl's beauty attracted great attention; and the early advances of a young actor attached to the company were strongly discouraged by the parents, who hoped for a more advantageous match for their daughter. Young Siddons was dismissed the troupe, and Sarah Kemble was sent off as lady's-maid to Mrs. Greathead of Guy's Cliff in Warwickshire, to get her out of the way of her youthful admirer. The consent, however, of her father being at length obtained to the match, Sarah Kemble became Mrs. Siddons in November, 1773. The young couple were married in Coventry. They at once took to the stage, which was their only means of support.

To Lord Ailesbury, then Lord Bruce, belongs the merit of first discovering the genius of Mrs. Siddons, in her early youth, on the

Coventry Boards. Through his influence she went to London. Her life is too well known to make it necessary here to narrate how, from small beginnings, and after careful self-instruction, she attained to the pinnacle of fame in her profession; and how she was one of the means of elevating that profession to the high level to which she justly considered it capable of being raised.

As an introduction to her letters, a truly Irish account of her first appearance in Dublin, and some lines written by Lord Erskine on her saying farewell to the stage in Covent Garden Theatre, are appended.

The following account of Mrs. Siddons' first appearance in Dublin is taken from an old *Irish newspaper*:—

"On Saturday, M^rs. Siddons, about whom all the world has been talking, exposed her beautiful adamantine, soft, and lovely person, for the first time, at Smock-alley Theatre, in the bewitching, melting, and all tearful character of Isabella. From the repeated panegyricks in the impartial London newspapers, we were taught to expect the sight of an Heavenly Angel; but how were

we supernaturally surprised into the most awful joy at beholding a Mortal Goddess. The house was crowded with hundreds more than it could hold, with thousands of admiring spectators that went away without a sight.

"This extraordinary phenomenon of tragic excellence! this star of Melpomene! this Comet of the stage! this Sun of the firmament of the Muses! this Moon of blank verse! this Queen and Princess of tears! this Donnellan of the poisoned bowl! this Empress of the pistol and dagger! this Chaos of Shakspeare! this World of weeping clouds! this Juno of commanding aspects! this Terpsichore of the curtains and scenes! this Prosperine of fire and earthquake! this Katterfelto of wonders! exceeded expectation, went beyond belief, and soared above all the natural powers of description! She was nature itself! she was the very daisy, primrose, tuberose, sweet-briar, furze-blossom, gilliflower, wallflower, cauliflower, auricula, and rosemary, in short she was the bouquet of Parnassus! Where expectation was raised so high it was thought she would be injured by her appearance; but it was the audience who were injured: several fainted before the curtain drew up! but, when she came to the scene of parting with her wedding-ring, ah! what a sight was there! the very fiddlers in the orchestra,

"'Albeit unus'd to the melting mood,'

blubbered like hungry children for their bread and butter; and when the bell rang for music between the acts, the tears ran from the basoon-player's eyes in such plentiful showers, that they choked the finger-stops, and, making a spout of the instrument, poured in such torrents on the first fiddler's book, that, not seeing the overture was in two sharps, the leader of the band actually played in one flat; but the sobs and sighs of the groaning audience, and the noise of the corks drawn from the smelling-bottles, prevented the mistake between the flats and sharps being discovered. One hundred and nine ladies fainted! forty-six went into fits! and ninety-five had strong hysterics!

"The world will scarcely credit the truth, when they are told that fourteen children, five old women, one hundred tailors, and six common council men, were actually drowned in the inundation of tears that flowed from the galleries, the slips, and the boxes, to increase the briny pond in the pit; the water was three feet deep, and the people that were obliged to stand upon the benches were, in that position, up to their ankles in tears! An Act of Parliament against tear playing any more will certainly pass."

Lines written *impromptu* by Lord Erskine, in a box in Covent Garden Theatre, when Mrs. Siddons had finished her address on taking leave of the stage :—

"'WHEN first the sun proclaims the day,
Surrounding clouds obscure his way;
And as he nears the western sky,
His radient beauties fade and die:
But Siddons—thy immortal flame
Of genius still has shone the same:
Soon as you burst upon our sight
Your lustre shed meridian light;
And glowing to the setting hour
Expired with undiminished power.'

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt :—

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I was just going to write when your kind letter was put into my hand. As yet I have had neither recollection or time to think of any thing except the tremendous devastation and its afflicting consequences. My poor brother bears it most nobly, with manly firmness, hope, and even chearful resignation. And for me, I now think only of the mercy which was vouchsaf'd us in his not having heard of the fire till the whole structure was devour'd, so that the lives of both my brothers, which wou'd have been risk'd in the efforts they wou'd have exerted (per-

haps at the expense of limbs and life), are safe; God be prais'd. I myself was in the house till near twelve o'clock. Mr. Brandon and the watchman saw all safe at near one, and it is as true as it is strange that not a fragment of the whole structure was discoverable at six, at which time my brother first heard of it; and he declar'd that at that time it was so compleatly destroy'd that you cou'd not have known a building had stood there.

"The losses of scenes, dresses, &c., are, as you may imagine, incalculable and irreparable. I have lost every thing, all my jewels & lace, which I have been collecting for thirty years, and which I cou'd not purchase again, for they were all really fine and curious. I had a *point riel* which had been a *toilette* of the poor Queen of France, near five yards long, & which cou'd not have been bought for any thing like so little as a thousand pounds, destroy'd, with dresses of my own of great value for costume. In short every thing I had in the world of stage ornament is gone, and literally not one vestige left of all that has cost me so much time and money to collect. We are to act at the opera next Monday, and I shall *attempt* the character of Lady Randolph there. My poor dear brother has to begin the world again, Mr. Kemble bears it like an angel. Of course I am with them every moment that I can.

It is a glorious feeling to see how many noble and friendly attentions have been shewn to him on this occasion. Lord Guilford and Lord Mountjoy have offered to advance him any sum of money they can raise by any means.

"My head is so confus'd I scarce know what I write, but you, my dear Lady H., will have the goodness to excuse any abruptness or incoherence under these circumstances. The Prince, too, has been so good and so gracious, every body is good and kind, and, please God, we shall still do well! Adieu."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt:—

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—Now that I can sit down in some hopes of being restor'd to health and comfort, I take the first leisure moment to write to you. I have been extreamly ill indeed ever since I reciev'd the honour of your very kind letter, but Dr. Reynolds has prescrib'd so happily for me that within this fortnight I am a new creature. It is impossible, I suppose, to give you any account of the Royal Family that you have not already heard. The King and Queen have done me the honour to be very gracious to me and to little George; her Majesty told me the other day that he was a very fine little boy, and so civil. They saw him several times with his maid; for I did not take him

on the esplanade when their Majesties were likely to be there, for fear his spirits shou'd have grown boisterous, except when we went to bathe in a morning, and the Queen was never on the walk at those times. How it rejoices one's heart to see the King so well, I never saw him look so handsome in my life, and the Queen is absolutely fat. In short they all look as well and as happy as possible, long, long may their happiness continue!

"I had the pleasure of seeing my dear Mr. Mason at Sheffield, and went and spent a day at his beautiful little Paradise; tho' I lov'd him and venerated his genius before as much as possible, my love and admiration is wonderfully increas'd since my having seen him domesticated, as I may call it. It is impossible to describe the delight it gives one, and the good it does one, to hear and see that severe countenance and voice grow instantly benign and melodious at the sight of any of his poor neighbours or domestics. He really talks to them with the tenderness and good humour of a kind and sensible father. The housekeeper almost made me envy her situation, she made me think it must be the nearest approach to the mansions of the blessed to dwell under his roof, and she thanked God for the preservation of his health with so much fervour, that I join'd in her petition for the continuance of this

blessing to her and many others almost as heartily as she herself cou'd do. Then the good man took us into his church, which is characteristic of himself, and wears an air of simple dignity. It was not Sunday, yet many people were assembled to hear the little children of the parish sing some poetry, which he has with his usual exquisite taste collected from the psalms, and adapted to elegant music of different composers. This was altogether too much and too fine a sort of pleasure to enjoy long; it over flow'd at my eyes; but a few moments like these convince one very forcibly there is a state of happiness in store for us which it 'hath not enter'd the heart of man to conceive.' I hope to see him again when I have the happiness of seeing you and dear Lord Harcourt.

"I expect every day to hear that among other dignities which the King dayly confers (nay I shall not be satisfied if it is not so) his Lordship will receive the greatest that can be confer'd on him. State and splendour shou'd attend on such virtues and graces as those of my most honour'd and beloved friends; but it is impossible that any earthly dignity shou'd alter the esteem and affection of their most oblig'd

"and ever faithful Sert,

"S. SIDDONS.

"*Weymouth, Augt. 11th*, 1789.

"Mr. Siddons begs his respects, and we offer kind Compliments to Mr. Haggitt.

"I am going to Exeter, where I shall be about five weeks, to act a few nights, and then I have done with the stage for a long long time."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Sandgate, near Folkestone, Kent, Aug. 2d*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—After so long a silence, your good nature will exert itself to bear a long letter full of egotism. I will begin with leaving Streatham, where you may remember to have heard me talk of going with no great degree of pleasureable expectations; supposing it impossible that I shou'd ever feel much more for Mrs. L. than admiration of her talents; but, after very unexpectedly having staid there more than three weeks, during which time every moment gave me fresh instances of unremitting kindness and attention to me, and indeed a very extraordinary degree of benevolence and forbearance towards those who have not deserv'd much lenity at her hands (and it is wonderful how many there are of that description), I left them with great regrett; & between their very great kindness, their wit, and their music, they have made me love, esteem, and admire them very much. In a few days I set out with Mr. S., Miss Wynn, and

her brother for Calais. After a very rough passage of little more than two hours we arriv'd at our destination, and found my dear girls quite well, and improv'd in their persons, and (I am told) in the French. I was very much struck with the difference of objects and customs in France, when I reflected how small a space divides one nation from the other.

"Like true English we saw all we cou'd, and I thought of my dear Lord Harcourt tho' not with him. In their churches, I own (tho' I blame myself at the same time for it) I was disgusted with all the pomp and magnificence. When I saw the priests playing such fantastic tricks before high Heaven as (I think) must make the 'Angels weep,' and when I heard the people gabbling over their prayers, and gaping to do it over as quick as might be, 'Alas,' said I to myself (in the pitifulness and perhaps vanity of my heart) 'how sorry I am for these poor deluded people, and how much more worthy the Deity, who does prefer before all Temples the upright heart and pure, are the sublime and simple forms of our religion.' Indeed, my dear Lady, I am better satisfied with the ideas and feelings that have been excited in my heart in your garden at Nuneham, than ever I have been in those fine gew gaw places; and believe Mr. Haggitt, by his plain and sensible sermons, has done more

good than a legion of these priests wou'd do if they were to live to the age of Methusalem. I am willing to own that all this may be prejudice, and that we may not mean better than our neighbours, but fire shall not burn my opinion out of me, and so, 'God mend all.'

"Now to return to our 'great selves.' We took our little folk to Lisle. It is a very fine town, and, tho' I know nothing of the language, the acting was so really good that it gave us very great pleasure; the language of true genius, like that of nature, is intelligible to all. We staid there a few days, and you wou'd have laught to have seen my amazement at the *valet* of the inn assisting the *femme de chambre* in the making of our beds. The beds are the best I ever slept upon; but the valet's kind offices I cou'd always I think dispense with. Good heavens! well.

"We return'd to Calais, where I wou'd have staid a few months, and have employ'd myself in acquiring a few French phrases with the dear children, if Mrs. Semple wou'd have taken me in; but she said she had not room to accommodate me, and I unwillingly gave up the point. In a day or two we set sail, after seeing the civic oath administer'd on the fourteenth; it was a fine thing even at Calais. I was extremely delighted and affected, not indeed at the sensible objects, tho' a great multitude is always a grand thing,

but the idea of so many millions throughout that great nation, with one consent, at one moment (as it were by divine inspiration) breaking their bonds asunder, fill'd one with sympathetic exultation, good will, and tenderness. I rejoic'd with them from my heart, and most sincerely hope they will not abuse the glorious freedom they have obtain'd! We were near twenty hours on the sea on our return, and arriv'd at Dover fatigued and sick to death. Dr. Wynn was oblig'd to make the best of his way to London on account of a sermon he was engag'd to preach, and took his charming sister with him. We made haste here, and it is the most agreeable sea place, excepting those on the Devonshire coast, I ever saw. Perhaps agreeable is a bad word, for the country is much more sublime than beautiful.

"We have tremendous cliffs over hanging and frowning on the foaming sea, (which is very often so saucy and tempestuous as to deserve frowning on), from whence, when the weather is clear, we see the land of France, and the vessels crossing from the Downs to Calais; it is amazing with what velocity they skim along. We have little neat lodgings, and good wholesome provisions. Perhaps they wou'd not suit a great Countess, as our friend Mr. Mason has it, but a little great Actress is more easily accommodated. I'm afraid it will grow larger tho'; and then adieu to the

comforts of retirement. At present the place cannot contain above 20 or 30 strangers, I shou'd think. I have bath'd four times and believe I shall persevere, for Sir Lucas Peppys says my disease is entirely nervous. I believe I am better, but I get on so slowly that I cannot speak as yet with much certainty; I still suffer a good deal. Mr. Siddons leaves me here for a fortnight, while he goes to Town upon business, and my spirits are so bad that I live in terror of being left alone so long. We have been here near three weeks, and I propose staying here, if possible, till September, when I shall go to Town to my brother's for some days, and then set off for Mr. Whalley's at Bath; I shall hope to see you at Nuneham tho' before you leave it.

"Now, my dear Lady Harcourt, let me congratulate you upon having almost got to the end of this interesting epistle, and myself in the honour of your friendship which has flatter'd me into the comfort of believing that you will not be tir'd of your proseing,

"but always very affte
"and faithful Sert
"S. SIDDONS.

"Pray offer my love, and our united comp. to all."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt :—

"IT happens very odly, my dear Lady Harcourt, that I cannot procure conveniently another sheet of paper, and I am so eager to have you see my dear Mrs. Piozzi's loyal ballad, calculated, as she humorously and pompously says, for the meridian of an ale-house, that I am resolved not to delay what may please and entertain you. I am getting quite well and my spirits are very much improved. It is a blessed change of mind and body, God be praised for it!! Pray remember me very affectionately to all yr household, and believe me in great haste,

"yr most afft
"S. SIDDONS."

A popular ballad for the associations in favour of loyalty, by Mrs. Piozzi.

"WHILST in murder embrued,
Our mad neighbours with blood
Delight their poor country to drench;
Let us British boys sing
Drink a health to our king,
And ne'er be such fools as the French;
And ne'er be such fools as the French.

"If enamoured they are
Of young freedom the fair,

Sure they know not the trim of their wench;
But think liberty's joy
To sink, burn, and destroy;
Why our fleet may do that for the French;
Our fleet may do that for the French.

"What bold Edward begun,
Both father and son,
From their monarch his sceptre to wrench;
These comical elves
Have now done for themselves,
And imprisoned their king of the French;
And imprisoned their king of the French.

"When our brethren and we
Quarrel'd over our tea,
And Lord North grac'd the treasury bench;
Fomenting vexations,
They injured both nations,
Such traytors and rogues were the French;
Such traytors and rogues were the French.

"Now dank Holland they swear
They will render so bare,
They'll not leave her an eel nor a tench;
But long live Billy Pitt,
And we hope they'll be bit,
While none fish in foul streams but the French;
None fish in foul streams but the French.

"But if this way they drag
Rebellion's curst flag,

In our channel their colour we'll quench:
Lest the poyson should spread
Soon cut off the snake's head,
Nor stand still to be stung by the French;
Nor stand still to be stung by the French.

"From the tower so high
Our red cross it shall fly,
And around it we'll dig a deep trench;
And will arm in the cause
Of religion and laws,
And down with the levelling French;
And down with the levelling French."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Kirkstall Abbey, near Leeds, July the 9th*, 1807.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—You see where I am, and must know the place by representations as well as reports I dare say; at least, my Lord does, yea 'every coigne and vantage' of this venerable pile, and envies me the view of it just before me where I am writing. This is an Inn, I set myself down here for the advantage of pure air and perfect quiet, rather than lodge in Leeds, which is the dirtiest disagreeable town in his Majestie's dominions, God bless him!! This day my task finishes; I have play'd there four nights, and am very tir'd of Kirkstall Abbey, it is too too sombre for a person of my age, and

I am no antiquarian. It is, however, extremely beautiful. I am going to York for a week, and I hope while I am there to hear from you, my ever dear Lady Harcourt. I must work hard a little while longer to realise the blessed prospect (almost, I thank God, within my view) of sitting down in peace and quiet for the remainder of my life.

"About 200 and 50 more a year will secure to me the comfort of a carriage, and, believe me, it is one of the favorite objects in that prospect, that I shall then have the happiness of seeing you and my dear Lord Harcourt often, very often; for tho' time and circumstances, and that proud barrier of high birth, have all combin'd to seperate our persons, yet allow me the honest ambition to think our minds are kindred ones, and, on my part, united, ever since I had the honour and good fortune to be known to you; how cou'd it be otherwise? since to know you both is to esteem and love you. Pray let me hear from you very soon; I am very anxious to know that your teasing cough has left you, and that you are both well. When you see your sisters, pray remember me most kindly to them, & to Gen^{l} and M^{rs}. Harcourt. I have some hopes of going to S^{t}. Leonards some time in the autumn. In the mean time I hope M^{rs}. H. will not forget her promise of the Sweet Dot. It gave me great pleasure to see

her look so well at Bath. If M^{r}. and M^{rs}. Haggitt are at Nuneham have the goodness to present my kind comp^{ts}; and now, my dear Lady Harcourt, I must leave off boring you to dress for "Belvidera." It is very sultry weather, & I am not i'th mood for acting, but I must tug the oar a little while longer, and then! how peaceful, how comfortable shall I be after the storms, the tempests, and the afflictions of my laborious life! God bless and preserve you, who are to make a large share of my happiness in that hour of peace.

"I am, with love to my dear Lord Harcourt, and Miss Wilkinson's most respectful compliments,

"My dear Lady Harcourt,

"Your aff^{te} and faithful

"S. SIDDONS."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Westbourne Grove, March*, 1808.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—Your kind letter has so completely anticipated all that I have felt, and shall feel long, that I have nothing to inform you of except my deep sense of your unalterable goodness to me. May I die as poor M^{r}. Siddons died and pray'd to die, without a sigh, without a groan, and may those to whom I am dear remember me when I am gone, as I now remember him; forgetting and forgiving all

his errors, and recollecting only his quietness of spirit and singleness of heart.

"I shall be forc'd to go to town on some melancholy arrangements, and will take the first opportunity of waiting upon you. Remember me most kindly to my dear Lord Harcourt, I hope he is as well, as (I thank God) you are. May you both live long and happily, and continue to honour with your friendship, my dear Lord and Lady Harcourt,

"Your aff^te & faithful Ser^t,

"S. SIDDONS."

Mrs. Siddons to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Bannister's Lodge, Southampton, Decr. the 12th*, 1818.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I cannot repress the anxiety I feel for the state of your health after this long and severe trial; and I flatter myself that the friendship with which you have honour'd me for so many years gives me a claim to your indulgence upon a subject which must ever be very deeply interesting to my feelings. I know well how firmly the strength of your mind and high principles wou'd bear you up to fulfil all the sacred duties which the unvarying and affectionate attachment of our most gracious and lamented Queen has call'd upon you to perform, and which you have so nobly and

tenderly fulfill'd to the very utmost; and I cannot but be fearful that those mournful and tender offices now no longer occupying your time and thoughts, you may feel the effects of such great and painful exertions even more than you expected; for I know by sad experience how wonderfully the mind sustains the body while exertions are necessary; and the sad nervous languid state in which they leave one when they cease to be so. From these apprehensions may I not hope, my dear Lady Harcourt, you will relieve me by the favour of a few lines?

"As it wou'd be the basest ingratitude not to feel, so I hope it is not presumptuous to say, that my own experience of his gracious goodness to me and mine has made me love, as much as I have always honour'd, his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and in his kind and friendly consideration for your feelings and health, my dear Lady Harcourt, he appears most amiably himself. It does my heart good to find how the eyes of people have open'd to see the sweetness and sensibility of his nature in all his dutiful and tender attentions to his royal parent; and I pray to God that he may receive the fulness of the promise annex'd to such pious conduct by 'living long and happily in the land which the Lord God hath given him.' Words cannot express what I felt for him in the performance of the last sad

duty; and I most devoutly hope that H.R.H. and the amiable Princesses are all as well as they can be under the pressure of so great an affliction. They have in themselves the best and most effectual consolations for it; the delightful recollection of having, by their unremitting and pious cares, alleviated the long sufferings of their august mother, and ensur'd to themselves the blessing of Heaven."

Mrs. Siddons to Earl Harcourt :—

"MY DEAR LORD,—If any thing cou'd have given me new life your kind note would have restored me, but I have been so ill with my cold ever since Wednesday that even the euylogiums so charmingly bestow'd on my beauty won't do. 'Can flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death?' I hope you and dear Lady Harcourt do not suffer from this severe weather! as to Mr. Haggitt he's in love, which is of 'so floodgate and o'erbearing a nature' that all other sensations are swallow'd up in that, or more properly over whelmed by it. My fingers are frozen, and my pen, which might as well be call'd a stick, make my writing almost as unintelligible as that of a certain lady whom I dare not presume to name. I hope, in God, you will continue to think me handsome a good while, and never cease to regard with kindness, indulgence, and honor of your friendship,

"My dear Lord,
"yr very affte
"and faithful Sert,
"S. SIDDONS."

Mrs. Siddons to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Monday Morng.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is easier for you to conceive than for me to express my surprise and grief at the melancholy news you send me, nor need I tell you how sincerely I sympathise with you in a loss which you must feel even more poignantly than myself; for truly the longer one knew those virtues and that exalted genius, the more one must have rever'd and lov'd their dear possessor[a]; but he is gone to receive his rich reward, and I am one of those (whether rationally or not, yet surely innocently) who look forward to the hope of meeting those I love in a better world, as one of the rewards for having struggled with reasonable decency thro' this. Let us endeavour to console ourselves with this delightful expectation, and in the hope that his pure spirit went into the bosom of its great Creator without much pain at its departure hence. 'Oh may my

[a] Mr. Mason.

death be that of the righteous and my last end be like his.'

"I have the honour to be,

"My dear Lord Harcourt,

"Your very affte & faithful Sert,

"S. SIDDONS.

"I hope my dear Lady Harcourt is well!"

Letters from Lady Craven.

ELIZABETH, LADY CRAVEN, was second surviving daughter of Augustus, Earl of Berkeley; she was born in December, 1750, and married in May, 1767, William Craven, who succeeded his uncle as sixth Baron Craven in March, 1769. It is unnecessary to enter into further details of the family history. The letters of this eccentric lady (so far as it is desirable to print them) give a notion of the amenities of her married life.

Lady Craven to Earl Harcourt:—

"MY DEAR LORD,—I left Paris the beginning of June to pay a visit in Tourraine, and while I was there I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from my brother, Lord Berkeley, saying he would pass the winter southward with me; which determined me not to return to Paris, but go on in my way to wherever he chuses to pass the winter months. I hope he will not alter his mind, for it would be a great satisfaction to me to see him. I have pass'd thro' Lyons, Avignon, Mar-

seilles, Toulon, Hyeres, Antibes, and I now write to you from Genoa, where I have seen Palaces and Pictures which deserve other possessors. These people have no idea of grandeur or comfort.

* * * * * *

"I was much surpris'd at Toulon to be refus'd the permission of seeing the dockyard; it was granted to a lady of my acquaintance, in the midst of the war, when her husband was sent out of the town; but I was told, since my Lord Chesterfield had been there, no one that had English blood in their veins was permitted to see it. I confess I should like to know what he could do to cause such a scare.

"I passed a fortnight at Hyeres, famous for its orange gardens, which, like many other fine things, are better in the description than in the enjoyment of them. I staid there a fortnight to read and write, for among a few books I had with me *L'Histoire du Siege de Gibraltar par un Officier Français*, struck me as a thing so extremely laughable that I could not resist the desire to turn it into English verse. I shall by the first safe hand send it to you for your amusement, Lady Harcourt's, and Mr. Walpole's. I have mark'd alphabetically the passages which diverted me in the book, and I hope you may laugh as much as I have done.

"You will wonder how I came to attend to military matters. It is a natural inclination in

me, but keep this confession a secret, my dear lord, for I assure you I love music and embroidery for my employments, when I am with women; but I confess I have had a very patriotic pleasure in list'ning to French officers speculating and calculating what they ought to have done. I have examin'd the nature of the Nation enough to be very glad they conquer only in their imagination; conscious that personal merit, viz. bravery & calm steady action in the field, belongs to my countrymen *par excellence.*

* * * * * *

"I came in a Felucca from Antibes to this place. I found arms & ammunition for forty thousand men at Monaco, carried there by little & little these fifteen months from France. This provision causes many conjectures. Here there is nothing talk'd of but the Cardinal de Rohan's imprisonment, and the despatch of the Emperor, who has wrote to every convent in his dominions some orders which are not to be open'd & executed till the 10th of this month.

"I set out to-morrow in a Felucca for Leghorne. I was sick in coming here—who never was sick in the British channel! however, if I have acquir'd a French stomach, I have preserv'd an English heart, which retains all the esteem it ever had for worth like yours, and wishes very sincerely that my pretty Country may be pre-

served from all the machinations of foreign powers, and from those worst ennemys to its greatness—domestic feuds, & spirit of party.

"Pray give my love to Mr. Walpole, & my compts to Lady H., with every sincere wish for both your healths & happinesses.

"I remain,
"my dear Lord,
"your attach'd sincere
"ELIZ. CRAVEN.

"*Genoa, 7th Septr.*, 1785."

Lady Craven to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Trustorf, 12th August*, 1787.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is a long time since I have had the honour of hearing from you, but I think this letter will be well worthy of an answer, as it is nothing less than a proposal for you and Lady Harcourt to become members of a very honourable society, which, tho' in its infancy at present, may become as usefull and agreable to absent *Confreres* as it is pleasant to us.

"To speak plainer, I have establish'd a literary society here, at the which presides the Margrave and all his noblesse that delight in the muses. I shall not send you a long list of names that cannot interest you, but Mr. de Buffon and the Prince Kaunitz are among them. Mercier is the Secretary

of this society; brother to that one who has the reputation of having wrote *le Tableau de Paris*, &c., of which works all that is worth reading is of Mr. Mercier's writeing. I have transplanted him & his wife & five children from Paris, and given them a beautifull house & garden here. I hear you say, 'given them a house! you, who have none of your own.' Yes, my good Lord, I have the pleasure of being treated here *en sœur et en souveraine* by the Margrave and his wife, and whatever I propose for their amusement and pleasure is executed.

"Our literary society meets 2 or 3 times a week; there is a *sallon* open with books & newspapers every day; & our Secretary reads or collects curious or new things for our amusement; we are likewise to publish a periodical paper. I will not promise it shall amuse more than other papers much given to invention, but I can answer for it, there shall be no scandal in it. Upon the table in the *sallon* I have ordered a large book *en blanc*, to be at the mercey of every pen that shall please to scribble something, *tant pis pour ceux qui n'ecriront pas ce qui vant la peine d'etre insere dans notre feuille.* I have little time to write, and, therefore, I beg you will inform Mr. Walpole of this new academy, and tell him I shall insert his name near mine.

"This is not the only new creation I have made

here. A beautifull theatre in the garden, which had been neglected six & thirty years, I have restor'd, & on the 6th of this month the court was a little surpris'd to see *la Chasse D'Henry* 4 acted as it never has been & never can be acted any where, as all the horses & hounds were *en scene*. The actors were all good; Sully in particular was super excellent. You may imagine how our troop was compos'd when I tell you that I play'd Catau, & the Comtesse L'Alfeldt, sister to the Prince de Tour, was Margot. We had an audience of two thousand five hundred people, &, owing to the number of guards, we had no confusion. If you answer this letter prettily and soon, I will send you the songs, &c., & we will make a collection (if you belong to us) of literary productions.

"I have bid a long adieu to England, my Lord; I endeavour'd, but in vain, last year, to get at my children properly; what I saw of their management gave me more pain than pleasure, & so I return'd and accepted here of the protection of an adopted brother, whose virtues as a friend I have long known. I have ventur'd to withhold my youngest boy, who is here with me, from the poison of mercenary governors & servants who are order'd to give my other children the worst impressions of me.

"I have written to my Lord, to beg he will not insist on my parting with him, as I should then

be oblig'd to try by the laws of my country if there does not exist there the same justice in Doctors' Commons for women as for men. I have reason to believe my hint has had a proper effect, and I leave to the chapter of accidents the rest. A very sound conscience is accompanied by a very chearfull heart; and perhaps it will be in the midst of these woods that I shall make some people in England feel the loss of me. We have a very fine type & printing press at Anspach, and my journal I shall publish there, with other works which I may venture to give the public. My health & my looks of course are much improv'd; I ride a great deal, and am making an English garden & farm here, so that, except the idea of my children, I have no gloomy employments here; there is much magnificence, & to it I am adding gayety. The country is beautifull, & the soverein belov'd, I may say adored.

"Pray tell me a little what your world is doing, & believe me your very much attach'd servant & friend,

"ELZ. CRAVEN.

"There is a postage to be paid for your letter, direct under cover to His S. H. the Margrave of Brandenbourg, Anspach et Bareith, a Anspach, Franconia."

Lady Craven to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Trustorf near Anspach, 25th May*, 1790.

"I AM always glad of an opportunity or excuse to put you in mind that I look upon you as an acquaintance for whom I have a particular esteem ; therefore, my Lord, I beg you will listen patiently to what I shall tell you. It can be nothing new to you that the Margrave is one of the best men in the world, and doubly and triply allied to our King ; but what may be new to you is that he has been many years wishing to have the blue ribband, and has seen it hang, I will not say like a calve's skin, &c., &c., &c., but on many limbs that may be 'recreant' when compared to his, without knowing why he did not adorn that which may have adorn'd others.

"Last year I made inquiries at Berlin, and was told he was to have it, and that if the K. of England knew he wish'd to have it, he would certainly give him the first.

"I should certainly have written to the King, but was told my letter must be read by the minister first, and as it is no ministerial favour for the Margrave to have the blue ribband, I would not ask him.

"As I flatter myself you have some little regard for me, and I know you like good & great men, I wish you would assist or forward this business. You would oblige me and please the M., whose only pride and pleasure is feeling that he is half an Englishman.

"I shall make no apologies for speaking to you on this subject. My gratitude to the M., and my esteem for him, plead my excuse to you. I shall be glad to hear you are well, and that you and Lady Harcourt do not intirely forget me.

"I remain, my Lord,
"your most O. servant
"& friend,
"E. CRAVEN."

Copy of the Margravine's first note :—

"THE Margravine of Anspach begs leave to inform the commanding officer of the Berks Provisional Cavalry, that two young officers forced their way through the gate of this place, telling the woman that wanted to deter them that they were going to Benham House—and meeting the Margravine, who asked them if they were going there, they answered they thought the road was public ; she answered it was not—but they proceeded through. The Margravine hopes that whatever these young men might be, they ought to be informed that they have behaved very unlike Gentlemen, &, of course, not the least like officers."

Copy of the answer to the foregoing :—

"THE officer commanding the Berks Provisional Cavalry begs leave to inform H.H. the Margravine of Anspach, that the two Gentlemen who rode through Benham Place gate did that conceiving that the road was public, which opinion they had formed from the constant practice during the late Lord Craven's residence at Benham, and the repute of the country. Under this idea they opened the gate, and did not answer the woman who had the charge of it, & who did not appear till one of the officers alluded to had passed through. These Gentlemen are by no means desirous of interfering with the wishes of any person, however their right may stand; but they regret that H.H. should have thrown any reflections upon their conduct, which coming from H.H. they cannot investigate."

Copy of the Margravine's second note :—

"UPON enquiry the Margravine finds the commanding officer is Colonel Dundas, who, if he had the common manners of a gentleman, would long ere now have done himself the honour of making himself known to the Margrave, by having waited on him, with all the officers of his Corps, to compliment so good & so great a man on his arrival

at Benham. The Margravine is authorized to tell Col. Dundas this, having in the whole Empire of Germany, as well as in Russia, received such and more civility, though she was only a passenger in those countries, because she was an English Peeress; and, now she has informed him how Gentlemen behave to Princes & Peers, she informs him that she had the happiness of living at Benham before Col. Dundas came into the country, and with Lord Craven, her late husband, whose determination then, as hers is now, was never to permit any one to make a passage through Benham. The road to Benham Hoe, or any other Benham, lies by Mat. Dyers, a public road, and the Margravine being now in possession of Hampstead, Benham, & all her son's manorial rights, will preserve them to her son inviolable, always glad to fulfil her late Lord's intentions notwithstanding, of doing every thing in her power to oblige any residing near her, when they don't forget what she is, and the obligations the whole nation, as well as Berkshire, are under to the best of Princes, and the most excellent of men, her present husband."

Letter from the Marquis of Carmarthen.

FRANCIS GODOLPHIN OSBORNE, Marquis of Carmarthen, was eldest son of Thomas, Duke of Leeds, whom he succeeded in 1789. He was born in 1751; and in 1773 he married Amelia d'Arcy, only child of the Earl of Holderness, and afterwards Baroness Conyers in her own right; he was divorced by Act of Parliament in 1779, and re-married in 1788 to Miss Anguish. His first wife was re-married almost immediately to Mr. Byron.

The offer which Lord Carmarthen, in his official capacity, was authorised to make to Lord Harcourt was declined by him.

The Marquis of Carmarthen to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Grosvr. Square, Dec.* 27, 1783.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I trouble you with this, in order to acquaint you that the Embassy to Spain being vacant, by the resignation of Lord Mount-

stuart, I am authorized to offer it to your Lordship, should it be a proposal which met your approbation. I am sure his Majesty & his Ministers would most sincerely rejoice at your concurrence in the appointment. I shall be much obliged to you for as speedy an answer as may be convenient, & need not I am sure beg that this proposal (if not accepted) may remain a secret.

"I am, my dear Lord,
"ever faithfully
"& sincerely yours,
"CARMARTHEN.

"*Earl of Harcourt, &c., &c., &c.*"

Letter from the Earl of Chesterfield.

PHILIP, fifth Earl of Chesterfield, born 1755, was grandson of Dr. Michael Stanhope, who was descended from the Hon. Arthur Stanhope, eleventh son of Philip, the first Earl. The issue of the ten elder sons of the first Earl having failed, the descendants of Dr. Michael Stanhope succeeded to the Peerage. Philip, the fifth Earl, died in August, 1815, having been twice married. With his grandson, George Philip Cecil Arthur, who succeeded as seventh Earl in 1866, Dr. Michael Stanhope's branch came to an end. The present peer traces his origin to a younger brother of Dr. Michael Stanhope.

Earl of Chesterfield to Countess Harcourt :—

"*March*, 1789.

"MADAM,—I am commissioned by the club at White's to desire you to take Her Majesty's commands as to the number of tickets she chooses

to command for the ball at the Pantheon[a]. We dare not flatter ourselves that her Majesty would do us the honor to be present on that occasion, but if she should, we should receive it as a great mark of her goodness, and should endeavour that the ball might be such as her Majesty would approve. Will your Ladyship do me the honor to mention this to the Queen, if you should think it proper so to do, and I shall be happy to receive her Majesty's commands.

"I have the honor to be,
"Madam,
"your Ladyship's
"most obedient
"humble Servant,
"CHESTERFIELD.

"*Monday*."

[a] NOTE BY COUNTESS HARCOURT.

"Given by the club at White's in honour of the King's recovery. Upon this occasion all the ladies wore a uniform of white sattin trim'd with crape & gold, & bows in their caps, with 'God save the King' embroidered in gold spangles upon white sattin. The Pantheon was beautifully illuminated, & adorn'd with many allegorical paintings, & the whole entertainment such as it became the first nobility in England to give upon an event that fill'd every honest heart throughout the nation with real joy.

"The chief managers were the Earls of Winchelsea, Chesterfield, & Coventry, who came down to Windsor with this invitation.

"The Queen's unwillingness to leave the King prevented her going to the ball."

Letter from the Countess of Sutherland.

ELIZABETH, Countess of Sutherland in her own right, was married to George, Earl Gower, son of Granville Leveson Gower, the first Marquis of Stafford. As her history will be fully entered into in another volume, it will be unnecessary here to go into further details.

The Countess of Sutherland to Countess Harcourt :—

"My dear Lady Harcourt,—If I have been much longer in writing to you than I intended, or ought to have been, it was in order to be able to execute the commission you gave me.

* * * * * *

"M^de^ de Biron told me she had very lately had the pleasure of seeing you, & was charmed with Nuneham & its inhabitants. She has returned to a very pretty house she has here, fitted up in the best taste both for magnificence & comfort, but I am afraid she will not find the same

agrêmens dans la societé that was here formerly, or that she left in England. *Pour moi, je m'amuse trés bien,* as there are still several very agreable people left, though they are much distrest by the situation of their friends & their country in general; & it is impossible to know them intimately without feeling much for them; though I cannot help thinking that if in this country *les sensations sont plus vives, elles sont en même tems moins profondes, que chez nous,* and that we should have felt & acted under such calamities in a very different way.

"It is astonishing how the Royal family support their misfortunes, particularly the Queen; she is still very handsome & has a great deal of Air.

* * * * * *

"Pray write to me soon, my dear L^y^ Harcourt, & tell me a great deal about all our society in England. I have not played at one game since I saw you of either chance or skill, except billiards for nothing, & loto *chez la Reine, qui n'est pas de tout gros jeu,* & at which I contrive to shew as much stupidity as the game admits of. I am quite reformed, & pass by tables of hazard without ever thinking of it. L^d^ Gower is also wonderfully wise in that respect, & keeps the young *Anglois* from play as much as any old sage could do.

"I had a letter from Farsby *du fond de l'Ecosse,* & I want to hear from you of the more animated

part of the world. We have got a charming house here, the Hotel de la Prs de Monaco, & I hope you will not send war & oblige us to quit it, as I have not yet felt any *ennui* here. If Ld G. knew that I was writing to you he would torment me to say a great deal from him. I beg you to present my compliments to Lord Harcourt, & to believe me, my dear Lady Harcourt,

"Very sincerely yours, &c., &c.,

"SUTHERLAND.

"*Paris, Sepr. ye 10th*, 1791."

Letter from Dr. Barrington.

FROM Dr. Shute Barrington, Bishop of Durham, to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Auckland Castle, North: Sep.* 17, 1791.

"... NOTHING can have been more flattering than my reception from all ranks & descriptions of men, which I attribute to its being so generally known that the situation, great as it is, was unsolicited on my part, & that I was the object of his Majesty's spontaneous favour.

"Of the two Castles, the places of a Bishop of Durham's Residence, it would be somewhat difficult for Lord Harcourt to decide to which he would give the preference. In that at Durham he would find every trace of the old Baronial mansion, & the Feudal system. The massy gate, the battlemented court, the spacious hall, the dungeon, the tapestried & matted gallery; where he might expect to meet the Knight of the Castle with his Beaver up; & where every circumstance would remind him of Otranto; and, as his Lordship has high respect for religious antiquity, he would visit St. Cuthbert's chapel, under the foundation of the Castle, & the box which conveyed the bones of that distinguished worker of miracles,

which insured certain victory to that army of contending chiefs which had the good fortune to have them in its van.

"The building at Auckland has nothing to boast of earlier than the Restoration, but then the scenery of its park would, if I mistake not, powerfully touch another string in his Lordship's frame, & call upon him to resume his pencil. There are, in truth, parts of very superior merit, & as capital as great diversity of beautiful ground, wood, rock, & an inchanting bold little river, can make them. *Ma tres chére Moitiér* is as enthusiastic as myself on this topic; & yet our Oxfordshire friends need entertain no apprehensions of the diminution of an attachment to our first love; we purpose being there in the course of next month, & will seize the earliest opportunity of making our courtesy & bow at Nuneham. I need not add, in the mean time, that our best wishes attend my Lord & you.

"I have the honour to be,
"with the truest respect & regard,
"your Ladyship's
"most faithful Servant,
"S. DUNELM."

Letters from Mr. Mason.

THE following Letters from Mr. Mason were overlooked during the preparation of the volume which contained his correspondence.

Rev. W. Mason to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Aston, July 15th*, 1791.

"MY DEAR LADY,—I beg leave to congratulate your Ladyship, the good Dowager, & your sisters, on the promotion of your brother to the See of Carlisle; and, as I am not in the habit of corresponding with himself (a very Burkian phrase), I request you to make my congratulations acceptable to his Lordship, who, I presume, will be glad to have one letter less to answer out of the number which will be addressed to him on this occasion.

"If Lord Harcourt sees this letter, I hope it will make him blush for that want of *etiquette*, not to say want of perfectly good well breeding, which he has lately shewn to me on an occasion which, tho' not exactly similar, has yet a certain shade of similarity (another Burkian phrase), sufficient to accuse him of the most crying sin that a cour-

tier can be guilty of, a *manquètterie* of *Politesse* (a phrase of my own). I more than hinted to him above half a year ago that I myself expected his Lordship's congratulations, not indeed for having got, but for having escaped promotion; & surely he has had full leisure to give such a letter that *tornure*, that delicacy of expression, which the subject seem'd to demand. I am, with my best respects to him, compliments to Mr. & Mrs. Siddons, Mr. Haggitt, &c., &c.,

"Madam,

"Your Ladyship's infinitely

"Devoted Servant,

"W. MASON.

"Three weeks hence my York Residence commences with a *roratorio* in the Cathedral, when I shall have the pleasure of hearing Madam Miriam's (I mean Maras) tuneful voice. I know no body but your Ladyship & Lady Holdernesse who would be more delighted than I shall be on the occasion."

Rev. W. Mason to Countess Harcourt :—

"*York, Octr. 17th*, 1790.

"MY DEAR LADY,—I have made if not the best yet certainly the truest apology for my silence to his Lordship; &, therefore, I hope you will accept the same; but, at the same time, I would not have your Ladyship think that I am prompted to write at present out of gratitude for the good news you sent me about Mrs. Siddons. Tho', if it had been news, it certainly would have had that effect upon me; yet I had heard & cordially rejoiced at it three months ago; &, as to the other part of your Ladyship's intelligence, *videlicet* that she means to act twenty nights this winter, this gives me concern rather than pleasure. I would have her keep free of the stage at least a year, if not two, except indeed a single appearance to prove to the world that she is in a state of sanity; which, you know, it has been so universally propagated that she is not, that perhaps nothing but her acting will remove the suspicion.

"I should be very happy if I could accept your Ladyship's kind invitation to meet her at Nuneham this autumn; but, alas, my wretched Residence in this wretchedest of all places is so far from being almost over, that it will be the feast of St. Martin, my tutelar saint, before my fetters are off my ancles. This festival being on the 11th of November, & the Parliament meeting on the 23rd, your Ladyship will easily calculate how short a time I could stay at Nuneham was I to attempt the journey; but, to own the truth, as I have own'd it to my Lord, I feel myself too old to take any more southern vagaries. I mum-

ble my meat worse than ever poor Whitehead did; your hard crusted French bread (unless I had taken a lesson from the stone eater who was lately in this city) would to me be a piece of adamant: this, & a hundred other cogent reasons, prompt me to give up the great world entirely, & only to admire it at a proper distance.

"I cannot conclude this stupid letter without applauding your Ladyship's judgment (tho' perhaps it may be only a court fashion) in writing upon lined paper. It improves the legibility of your hand prodigiously. My best respects attend the good Dowager & her fair daughter; compliments to Mr. Haggitt, & Mrs. Siddons when she comes. I hope your Ladyship believes me to be with all sincerity of respect,

"Your most obliged & devoted Servant,

"W. MASON."

Letter from Mrs. Kennicott.

MISS ANN CHAMBERLAYNE was sister to one of the Solicitors of the Treasury; she was a lady of large literary attainments. In 1771 she had married the celebrated Hebrew scholar, Dr. Kennicott, who was at that time a Canon of Christ Church in Oxford, having obtained it in exchange for a stall at Westminster, to which he had been previously presented.

Mrs. Kennicott to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Windsor, Aug. 18th.*

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I have for some time foreseen that I should not see your Ladyship and Lord Harcourt while I was at Windsor, and, marvellous to tell, I was rather glad of it. This is one of the greatest proofs I shall ever give of my disinterestedness, for indeed I should not wish to purchase any gratification to myself at the expence of such a worry to you both, as the kind of life the Royal Family are now leading must occasion; and I have no doubt but that, on this point, I have the honour of thinking with her Majesty,

which is the reason of your not having had a summons.

* * * * * *

"Of all the raree shows here, I missed the one which I think I should have best liked. The Turkish Ambassador and his suite, fourteen Turks and a Greek interpreter, came to spend a day with Sir William Parsons. In the morning they had their carpets and cushions carried upon the terrace, where they smoked their pipes; then they walked up the mount of the Round Tower, and as the breadth of each path obliged them to walk singly, they and their high Turbans and long robes seemed to fill the mount. In the evening they went upon the terrace to be presented to the Royal Family. The Ambassador had on a robe richly trimmed with black fur; it was one of the hottest of our days. As soon as he saw the King approaching two of his attendants threw over him a violet coloured mantle, lined throughout with white fur, and so befurred he had his audience. O how Lord Harcourt would have envied him.

* * * * * *

"Pray give my affectionate grateful respects to Lord Harcourt, and

"am your Ladyship's most obliged,

"& truly affectionate humble servant,

"A. KENNICOTT."

Letter from Mr. King.

EDWARD KING was born in 1735. He was a man of ample fortune, and engaged himself in the pursuit of philosophical antiquities, in preference to that of law, to which he had been educated. He was much prouder of being President of the Archæologia than of being Recorder of Lynn. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1767, and of the Society of Arts in 1770. He died in 1807.

Mr. King was a man of extensive reading and of considerable knowledge; he set great store upon his powers of "thinking," but his judgment sometimes misled him into unfortunate controversies with such critics as Mr. Gough and Bishop Horsley, for whom he was no match. His chief work was the "Munimenta Antiqua."

Edward King, Esq. to Earl Harcourt:—

"MY LORD,—I am deeply sensible of the unmerited honour which your Lordship has con-

ferred upon me by your most obliging letter; and shall be happy to communicate any little degree of information in my power.

"Your Lordship will easily recollect that Leland[a] and Dugdale[b], on the authority of antient traditions and records, affirm the Castle of Oxford to have been built by Robert D'Oiley, who came into England with William the Conqueror. No doubt can therefore remain but that this illustrious Chieftain either repaired or built a Keep tower here, on an high mount, in the same sort of style with those which were the usual mansions, in those days, of so many other great Norman barons at different places.

"Yet it is, at the same time, still further almost as certain that a Keep tower and Castle of residence, of some kind or other, must have existed here a considerable while before the Conquest: because not only King Alfred, but also Harold-Harefoot, are known to have resided long at this place.

"The giving due weight then to both these considerations may help us to account satisfactorily for every circumstance in the appearance of the present interesting remains, of which your Lordship has sent me so curious an account.

"For, we may be assured, that there was, at least in the time of Robert D'Oiley, on the very

[a] Vol. ii. p. 17. [b] Dugdale Bar., vol. i. p. 459.

summit of the mount now called the Castle-hill, a Keep tower of considerable height; and containing at least three stories, whose external diameter was almost equal to that of the summit of the hill; and which would therefore very nearly resemble, both in appearance and situation, those at Arundel, Tunbridge, and Lewes: whilst the tower, near the foot of the mount, represented in Agas's view drawn in 1578 (of which there is a copy inserted in Mr. Grote's Antiquities, Vol. 8), was merely an additional fortification: consistently with what is said of it in the account of the siege of this castle in King Stephen's time; and consistently with what I have found to have been the case in some other fortified mansions.

"Hence then it appears evidently that the little vaulted apartment, of which your Lordship has had the goodness to send me so curious a drawing and description, was the original well-room, belonging to, and constructed in the centre of the original Keep, devised from the first to supply it with water; and sometimes occasionally used as a dungeon, of which latter fact I should not be at all surprized to find if further proofs were to be discovered, by the existence of iron staples in the walls, ... and I cannot but add that a subterraneous room, almost exactly similar to this, exists at Arundel Castle, only no well has as yet been there opened.

"The remains of foundation walls running round the summit of the mount I apprehend to be those of the original Keep itself.——But, my Lord, as the whole external diameter, in that part, is only forty feet, and the walls are of considerable thickness, it appears that the diameter of the Keep tower, on the inside, could not be much above twenty, or twenty-one feet, which is so much less than that of the Norman Keeps in general, that I cannot but suspect this to have been of much higher antiquity than the time of Robert D'Oiley; and to have been indeed the very mansion in which both Alfred and Harold Harefoot resided,—and that its being of no larger dimensions was the very reason why the strong tower at the foot of the Mount was added, for the sake both of greater strength and of greater accommodation,—from which Tower I make no doubt there was a communication, by steep steps, to the near adjoining Keep, on the top of the mount, in the same manner as I have met with in some other Castles.

"It is indeed true that Alfred, and his son Edward, devised and constructed Castles themselves of a more magnificent kind. But, my Lord, I have, in the work which is now by me, ready for publication, produced many unquestionable and most curious instances (little suspected hitherto, and therefore alone unnoticed, and little known) of remains of structures similar to this which I

conceive to have existed at Oxford, of the very early ages before the Conquest, in which our Saxon Princes dwelt,—and instances where sometimes vaulted rooms, built after the Roman manner in those early ages, were certainly constructed, and, with your Lordship's permission, shall add the drawings of this curious specimen to the rest.

"That such a well-built vaulted room should be found in a tower once inhabited by Alfred is not at all surprizing; neither is it so that just before his age they should have gotten rid of the inconvenience of the opening for the well through the middle of every floor. And, that Alfred's habitation was in this very Castle, appears the more deserving of credit, because, in the survey taken just after the Conquest, no mention is made of the remains of any other palace or place of royal residence at Oxford that he could have dwelt in, but only of forty-two common houses within and without the walls of the city.

"My Lord, in order to confirm these ideas, I should be glad to know (if your Lordship would have the goodness to obtain for me that information) what is the exact thickness of the fragments of masonry (a a a) on the top of the hill?

"As to the rest;—the staircase (B), whatever may be the mode of entering it now, I apprehend began originally in a cavity in the inside of the wall of the Keep, in the room on the ground floor.

"And as to the human skeletons found in the well:—there seems the utmost reason to believe, since the town gallows stood on a mount near the north wall of the Castle, that these may have been the bodies of malefactors formerly executed; which were hastily flung in here instead of being buried, just as disgracefully, under the gallows, according to the old usage mentioned by Plott, in several places, even in late ages.

"The well was probably first partly filled up soon after the demolition of the Keep, and even with some of the stones and rubbish left on that demolition, and afterwards from time to time these bodies and more rubbish were thrown in till it was quite covered.

"If it be cleared out deeper and deeper, I should think it highly probable, on account of the vicinity of the place of execution, that even more skeletons would be found.

"I hold myself greatly indebted to your Lordship for the sketch and plan, which I shall add to my collection most gladly, both on account of their intrinsic value, and still more as a memorial of your Lordship's partial attention to my labours.

"I hope to return to town very shortly, and if it can become a matter of the least entertainment to your Lordship to look over my three volumes of drawings, which are now quite prepared for engraving, and in which are several things that

tend to elucidate the subject of the letter with which I have been honoured, it will make me very happy, and I should be glad if your Lordship would appoint some morning for the purpose.

"Mrs. King and our Niece beg leave to join in most respectful compliments, and I remain, very truly, with great regard,

"My Lord,

"Your Lordship's most obliged

"humble Servnt,

"E. KING.

"*The Oakery, Beckenham, November 12th*, 1794."

Letter from Mr. Haggitt.

THE history of Mr. Haggitt and his appointment to the living of Nuneham by George Simon, Earl Harcourt, is to be found in the Mason correspondence in the last volume. He came to Nuneham quite as a youth, and the friendship between him and his patron was of a warm and lasting character. Mr. Haggitt's daughter married Mr. Baker, who was presented to the living of Nuneham by William, Earl Harcourt, on Mr. Haggitt's decease. Mr. Baker's daughter married Mr. Cooke, who on Mr. Baker's death had the living of Nuneham bestowed upon him by Mr. G. Harcourt.

Rev. Francis Haggitt to Earl Harcourt :—

"*June 11th*, 1794.

"I WILL not repeat to you, my dear Lord, the particulars which you must already have of our Naval Victory; but I cannot forbear telling you the manner in which it was announced and received at the Opera last night, because you may

not perhaps have the account from any other quarter. The first act of the *Frascotana* had passed over very quietly, & the spectators were not looking at the undiverting *divertissement* which followed, when Lady Chatham came into her box. I observed a great noise & bustle there, & presently Lord W. Gordon came into the pit, near where I was seated, announcing the glorious tidings from Lord Howe. The news ran like wild fire, & in ten minutes was known to every individual in the House; then (albeit repugnant to the English character) those who were total strangers to each other became suddenly familiar; each man congratulated & question'd his neighbour in the same breath, & I became the dear & intimate friend of a person whom I never saw before, & shall probably never see again.

"In the meantime the 2d act of the Opera was begun, & I know not who was singing I know not what, when there was a vehement call for 'Rule Britannia:' the performance ceased, the band immediately obeyed the call, & the first note was no sooner heard than the whole audience rose from their seats as if electrified, & the continued & violent plaudits & huzzas almost overwhelmed the music; Morelli, Morishelli, & the other singers joining in the shouts, & acting a great deal of joy extremely well. When this tumult had subsided we sat down again, but before the renewal of the

Opera there was a sudden & general cry of 'God save the King,' on which we all instinctively rose again, the Musicians in the Orchestra also standing up, & the performers on the stage singing the song with great applause. I cannot describe to you the impression which this scene made upon me, nor the thrilling & agitation of my nerves; the effect was such that the Operatical music (though extremely beautiful) became flat & perfectly insipid; & finding I could relish nothing after the luxurious feast I had been enjoying, I came away very soon afterwards, of which I now repent, being informed that Banti was discovered in a Box, & invited by the audience to come upon the stage, & sing 'God save the King' again, with which request she readily complied.

"I am told that Admiral Montagu has intercepted two or three ships which had escaped from Lord Howe.

"Remember me kindly to Lady Harcourt,

"& believe me, my dear Lord,

"your faithful & affectionate,

"F. HAGGITT."

Letter from Mrs. Hartley.

THE husband of Mrs. Hartley was the son and biographer of the celebrated Dr. Hartley, of whom it was said that "the virtuous principles instilled in his works were the invariable and decided principles of his life and doctrine. His whole character was eminently and uniformly marked by sincerity of heart, simplicity of manners, and manly innocence of mind."

Mr. Gilpin, of whom Mrs. Hartley writes, was one of those friends whose congenial tastes always assured to him a hearty welcome at Nuneham on the part of Lord Harcourt.

Mrs. Hartley to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Belvedere, Dec.* 29, 1797.

"MY LORD,—I have just received an answer from Mr. Gilpin, who is much flattered by your Lordship's obliging intention to send him the description of Nuneham-Courtenay, in which is contained the lines by Lady Harcourt, that do

so much honor to the memory of his friend Mr. Mason.

* * * * * *

"I am sorry to add that poor Mr. Gilpin does not write in spirits, & that he complains of an astmatic disorder, which I am much concerned at; he had enjoyed till this time a remarkable share of good health, with a very placid mind, & the most perfect acknowledgement of happiness that I ever met with; for tho' it is common enough to hear people say 'I was happy,' we very seldom find any one who says, 'I am so.' In one of his letters to me, giving me a long account of his life & family, his children & grand children, with all the circumstances of his contentment, particularly of his happy marriage with a most amiable & excellent woman, he tells me that they have often said to each other, 'that they had never known what cou'd be called an affliction; & only have had to hope that God wou'd be pleased to work with them by felicity, as He often does with others by calamity.'

"I beg pardon for taking up so much of your Lordship's time; & yet I cannot help thinking that you will be pleased to meet with this little anecdote of a man who is as respectable for his moral virtues, as he is eminent for his taste & genius in the elegant art that you love.

"I hope your Lordship & Lady Harcourt have

not suffered from the fatigues of the journey to St. Paul's. I rejoiced to hear that you had so much brighter weather in town than we have had here, for it rained with us the whole day; & we little hoped that the scene wou'd be so resplendent as I hear it was.

"I felt sorry that your Lordship & Lady Harcourt left Bath so soon, but when you return I hope to enjoy the pleasure of your company again, & I have the honor to be,

"My Lord,
"your Lordship's
"most obliged
"& obedt Servant,
"MARY HARTLEY.

"Will your Lordship have the goodness to put Lady Harcourt in mind of her very kind promise to let me have the beautiful lines to 'Gratitude,' undeprived of those interesting & expressive passages which she was so good to repeat, & which gave the poem its peculiar force & beauty?"

Letter from Bishop Porteus.

BEILBY PORTEUS was born at York in 1731. He was the eighteenth child out of a family of nineteen. His father and mother were natives of Virginia, but they came over to the mother country for the purpose of educating their children. After a primary education in York the future Bishop was sent at an early age to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he was admitted as a Sizer. His merits and his studies soon secured for him the success which they deserved. His first occupation was that of a tutor at the University.

In 1757 he was ordained, in 1762 he became Chaplain to Archbishop Secker, and in 1765 he was married to Miss Hodgson of Asbourne in Derbyshire. In 1767 Porteus took the degree of Doctor in Divinity, and in 1769 he became Chaplain to the King, and Master of St. Cross, near Winchester. His sermons now began to attract

public attention, and in 1776 he was promoted to the bishopric of Chester. In this station he made himself remarkable for his piety, benevolence, and zeal in the public good. On the death of Bishop Lowth, in 1787, Dr. Porteus was transferred to the See of London. In this extended sphere the excellent Bishop continued to display all the energy of his character, in the promotion of religion, morality, and literature. His benefactions were very large, and his literary works very extensive. He died in May, 1808, in the 78th year of his age.

B. Porteus, Bishop of London, to Earl Harcourt :—

"*St. James's Square, April* 8, 1797.

"MY LORD,—Your Lordship & Lady Harcourt will be much concerned to hear of the death of our poor friend Mr. Mason, of which his curate, Mr. Branskill, informed me by a letter which I received yesterday. On Friday se'night last he scratched his leg in getting into a carriage, felt not the least inconvenience from it till Monday morning, at which time the best medical assist-

ance was procured—but in vain, for a mortification commenced, & terminated fatally at 2 o'clock on Wednesday.

"I condole very sincerely with your Lordship & Lady Harcourt on this unexpected loss of an old friend, a worthy man, & very distinguished writer, &, though much less closely connected with him, I feel very sensibly the sudden deprivation of so pleasant a correspondent (& occasionally intimate friend), as he has been to me for some years past.

"I have the honour to be your
"Lordship's most faithful
"& obed[t] Servant,
"B. LONDON."

B. Porteus, Bishop of London, to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Fulham, June* 17.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Not knowing whether the enclosed pamphlet by M[r]. Percival may have fallen in your way, I take the liberty of sending you a copy of it, as being in my judgement an excellent & unanswerable one. Allow me at the same time to add that I feel extremely anxious for the success of the bill to which it relates, from a perfect conviction that it will conduce most essentially to the interests of religion & the Church

of England, & also to the relief & comfort of a most laborious, most indigent, & most meritorious class of men, The Curates of England & Wales.

"I enclose to you also, for your amusement, a very curious little tract (which is not to be bought), containing a slight sketch of the life & travels of a Prussian Clergyman, who is lately come to this country, & is, I believe, the greatest Oriental scholar & traveller in Europe. In order to retain such a treasure as this in this kingdom, I have just given him a very valuable living in Essex; thinking he may be of infinite use to the cause of religion & learning in this kingdom by reviving the study of Oriental literature (which is at a very low ebb among us), & by applying his great talents & extensive knowledge of Eastern languages, manners, & customs, to the explanation & illustration of the sacred writings, which important object he has promised to have constantly in view.

"M[rs]. Porteus & myself condole most sincerely with your Lordship & Lady Harcourt on the severe loss you have lately sustained; & lament also the loss which we shall sustain by the departure of the Archbishop of York & Lady Anne from London. Besides the great pleasure we always received from their society, I shall feel very strongly the want of his personal assistance in the House of Lords on the Curates' Bill, which

I believe will come up to us on Tuesday next. He speaks so extremely well in Parliament, that we lose in him one of our most powerful supports. He has, however, been so good as to leave his proxy for the bill with the Archbishop of Canterbury. May I hope that your Lordship's proxy will take the same direction?

"With our best respects to Lady Harcourt,

"I remain, my dear Lord, your

"most faithful & obedient Servant,

"B. LONDON."

Letter from the Bishop of Kilmore.

THE Bishop of Kilmore[a] to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Rutland Square, May 23rd*, 1798.

"DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—Your kind letter to Mrs. Jones gave us no small consolation, in the midst of the confusion & disturbance wh surround us at present. The state of Dublin, on our arrival, was nearly what I apprehended; it has been far worse since; yet under the protection of Providence, & the extraordinary exertions of Government, we are, at length, I trust, secure from the insurrection & massacre which threaten'd us within these few days. The apprehension of Lord Ed. Fitzgerald (an account of which has been detailed in the publick papers), & of some other treasonable persons, with the seizure of many thousand pikes & musquetts, have quieted in a great degree the general alarm. The county & city of Dublin are proclaim'd; the houses of all suspected persons are closely search'd; & the military parade the streets day & night. The House of Commons framed a bill yesterday evenᵍ en-

[a] Dr. Jones was recommended for the Bishopric of Kilmore by Simon, Earl Harcourt, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

abling the Commissioners of oyer & terminer to hold their sessions during the sitting of term, which will hasten the tryal of the prisoners. It pass'd the two Houses the same even'g, & was certified into England by the Lord Lieutenant & Council by last night's packet—a most unheard of instance of dispatch.

"If your Ladyship will take the trouble to read the subjoin'd proclamation from one of the rebels, you will be of opinion that the shortest delay will endanger the very existence of the Constitution. This paper was found in the pocket & in the hand-writing of Mr. Sheares, who was apprehended on Monday, & is now with his brother in very safe custody. The proclamation was to be distributed thro' the cities & country immediately, & the insurrection to follow close upon it.

"'FRIENDS & COUNTRYMEN.

"'Repair to the flag of liberty, wh is now flying; many of the tyrants have already bled, many more will shortly bleed by the decrees of the revolutionary tribunal, which will be immediately establish'd. Seize this opportunity of rescuing your Country: it is the only one you may ever have.'

"The treason, we thank God, has been discover'd time enough to prevent the execution. No precaution, however, is omitted, & indeed too much cannot be taken; the least confiden-

tial part of our family do not lie within the body of the house; all our doors are lock'd early, for we don't go out at night; the keys & the fire arms are deposited with the Governor of the citadell; what defence he will make, if attack'd, I doubt, as he has never seen service; I hope his courage may not be put to a tryal.

"But it is time to relieve your Ladyship. May you never experience the consternation we have been the witnesses of here—that it was not still greater was owing to the ignorance that many were under of their danger.

"Mrs. Jones joins me in every respectful & kind wish, & compliments to your Ladyship & Lord Harcourt.

"I have the honor to be
"with great truth,
"my dear Madam,
"Your Ladyship's devoted Servant,
"GEO. LEWIS KILMORE."

Letter from Mr. West.

BENJAMIN WEST was born in 1738, of Quaker parents, in Pennsylvania. They had emigrated from England in 1715. Art began to manifest her supremacy over him at an early age, for, being only seven years old, he accomplished a likeness of his baby sister in her cradle.

At the age of 16, after some demurring on the part of his Quaker relatives, he was allowed to commence the profession of portrait painter in New York. In the year 1760, being then 21 years old, with the assistance of his patrons he managed to pay a visit to Italy for the purpose of improving himself in his art. In 1763 he went to London, where he at once established a reputation. In the following year he married a young American lady; in 1765 he was chosen a member and director of the Incorporated Society of Artists, and painted many historical pictures. In 1768 he was one of the

four artists who submitted to the king the plan for the Royal Academy. In 1772 he was appointed historical painter to the king, and, during the thirty-three years which this appointment lasted, he received from his Majesty £34,187 for his works. On the death of Reynolds in 1792 he was elected President of the Royal Academy, but declined the honour of knighthood. He resigned the Presidentship on the occasion of some quarrel with Fuseli (about the date at which the following letter was written), but he was re-elected in 1805. 2,000, 3,000, and 8,000 guineas were the prices asked by him for some of his pictures.

As he was, perhaps, somewhat overrated during his life, so, doubtless, he has been somewhat underrated since his death. He died in Newman-street, London, in 1820, aged 81, and was buried with great honour in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Benjamin West, Esq. to Earl Harcourt :—

"*London, Novr. 25th*, 1802.

"MY LORD,—Tho' your Lordship has for more than thirty years given me undeniable proofs of your kindness, yet I cannot intrude on your time without apologising for the freedom I now take—convinced at the same time that, when you know my motives, you will pardon the liberty.

"When I waited on your Lordship last spring to request permission to use your name if necessary, there was at that time those whose object was secretly to deprive me of the continuance of his Majesty's favours, as well as to drive me from the place I have the honour to hold in the Royal Academy; and likewise to stop the great work I am engaged on for his Majesty's Chapel at Windsor, and that under the insinuation of my wanting loyalty; but his Majesty graciously permitting me to an audience, rendered any mention of your Lordship unnecessary, as I found myself in his Majesty's paternal regard and full confidence.

"From several friends I find that those malignant spirits are again endeavouring to prejudice my character in his Majesty's good opinion, by giving a faulse construction to my visiting the arts at Paris—as certain of my incurring the King's displeasure. If those enemies have succeeded in producing that effect, it is a misfortune to the arts! But, in regard to myself, I am conscious that when my long attachment, love, and loyalty to the best of kings are sumed up, I shall not be in fear of the loss of honour for want of loyalty, or his Majesty the loss of that glory which is his due, in protecting me and the fine arts.

"That my visit to Paris might be guarded against those insinuations, a few days before his Majesty went to Weymouth last summer I paid my duty to him at Windsor, when he spoke much to me respecting the works of art in the galleries of the Louvre, 'that he had heard the Apollo was a copy, as well as that most of the fine pictures had been ruined in cleaning, or by having been fresh painted on.' I replyed 'that I had heard the same,' and further, 'that in the course of the summer I had thoughts of going to Paris to see that collection, &c.' To which his Majesty was graciously pleased to listen with complacency!

"Early in August I waited on Lord Hawkesbury, and informed his Lordship of my intentions, and, that he might be perfectly satisfied with the rectitude of my intended visit to the arts, I gave him to understand that my purpose of going to Paris was not unknown to his Majesty. His Lordship gave me a passport which was likewise signed by Mr. Otto, and a private letter to

Mr. Merry the British Minister. Mr. Otto gave me three letters in the presence of Lord Hawkesbury (when I dined with his Lordship near Rowhampton), two of which were to the French Ministers—Barbe Marbois and Maret—the other was to Mr. Peregaux the banker. Mr. King, the American Minister, gave me a letter to Mr. Leveston, the Minister of the United States at Paris.

"Thus, resting on those precautions, the sanction of those recommendations, and my professional character, I went to Paris before the month of August was out; and the reception I met with there is known not to be dishonourable to his Majesty's patronage, the recommendations I was favoured with, my country, or myself. My associations while there was with those above mentioned, and the societies composed of men of the first eminence in arts and sciences; and the notice bestowed on me by those societies, as well as the attention shewn me by many of the most respectable inhabitants, were such that every person of sensibility must feel that the distinctions were honourable to the stations I hold in England.

"By my journey to Paris I ascertained three essential points, viz., the state of the arts in France, what is necessary to be done by England to maintain her pre-eminence in the arts, and by what means the ingenious youths of this country

could benefit their studies from the great examples of art which are in the central Museum of the Louvre. Thus zelous in promoting what would contribute to elevate the arts in this country, I added this last exertion to my fourty years' assiduity—and that the department in them, to which I have been called by the gracious choice of his Majesty, might be advanced as far as my humble abilities would enable me to do, they have been exerted; and to this, as far as my station in life would permit, I have maintained his Majesty's honour, interest, and glory; and I have received from his Majesty that support which enabled me to produce those works which are known to your Lordship, the country, and the civilised world. If I have been so unfortunate while making my last effort to give a further strength to the arts in England—to have my good intentions whispered away by those who have long meditated the debasement of the arts in this country—the country will have to lament their success.

"The above, my Lord, is a faithful narrative of my past proceedings, as the following is a full avowall of the principles under which I have been educated. In my early life I was instructed by a parent (who was honourably descended from ancestors whose virtues were heroick, as well as religious) to loyalty and attachment to the Hano-

verian family, and the British constitution as established under that family. United to those early principles a personal knowledge of the King's goodness have bound me to his Majesty, with love and gratitude, for more than thirty years. In his Majesty's happiness I have rejoiced, and in his adversities I have sympathized with a heart of sorrow, and at all times I have maintained, as far as my situation would enable me, his honour, his rights, and his dignity, and what I have attained by my profession has been devoted to render homage to his sovereignty.

"Receive then, my Lord, a full assurity, that I am, with the profoundest respect and esteem,

"Your Lordship's much obliged

"BENJ^N WEST.

"*The Earl of Harcourt.*"

Letter from Madame de Mortemard.

MADAME DE MORTEMARD was grand-daughter to the Duc de Harcourt, and was one of those who took refuge in England during the French revolution. The whole family shared in Lord Harcourt's hospitality both at Nuneham and at Harcourt House. Subsequently Lord Harcourt hired a house for them at Staines, and gave them an allowance, till such period as the troubled times allowed them to return to France.

Madame de Mortemard to Countess Harcourt:—

"*May the* 18*th*, 1803.

"MY DEAR MADAM,—Having now the greatest fear that the communication may be stopped between this country and England, I cannot resist sending you once more the expression of my attachment to you. If I have not wrote to you before, it is only because I have heard of you often through my other friends, and have desired them to re-

member me to you, and, therefore, thought it was unnecessary to tire you by my letters; but it is a satisfaction I cannot refuse myself at this present moment, though I still hope our fears can be vain; indeed I will not, till the last moment, believe it possible that there can be a war; it is such a great misfortune for every body, but still more for me, it realy would kill me quite, for my long absence has not altered in the least the attachment I have for the people and country. Nothing can nor ever will, and it will be the happiest moment of my life when I shall be able to see once more those dear friends to whom I owe so much; the more I hear my grand mother's account of your kindness and attention to her, the more I thank Providence for having given us such good and kind relations, who have not only sustained all our family for so long, but have also, by every sort of kindness softened the misfortune of us all; those things can NEVER be forgot, and must ever fill our hearts with the deepest gratitude.

"I cannot tell you how much the Duchess regrets being so far from you, and how she talks of her affection and obligation; she is, thank God, very well indeed, pretty comfortably established, being in a good airy situation, with gardens round her; the rooms are not very handsome, but very decent and quite what she wants now. I am a little afraid she will find the town very

dull this summer as soon every body will be going in the country, and then she cannot have much company, but we will do our best not to leave her alone. My father and my sisters are now going into the country for a fortnight, to my uncle's; I shall not go, some one must stay with her, but, as my sisters have been a longer time away from my father, it is better they should go with him, besides I may go later in the year when they will be away. I should not have been sorry for a little country air, having been in Paris ever since I came to France, but I give it up with pleasure, as she wants me now.

"I hope you have a better weather in England than we have here, for it is quite winter, and ever since my father came he says nothing else but what an horrid climate this is; however, I dread the heat we had last summer, it was so very terible in Paris, and I fear it will be the same again as it is so cold now. There has been great many marriages here since the spring, among them are M^rs^. D'Haussonville's two daughters, and very well married too. I long to hear who Lady S. Fane will choose. We thought here that there was a little flirtation between the Duke of Bedford and Lady Georgina Gordon, indeed it would be too odd if the Duchess succeeded in that, if she does she is certainly the cleverest woman in the world; however, she did not shew

that here by her behaviour; I assure you, for the honor of my adopted *Patrie* I have often suffered to hear her called an English woman, but she always was odd in every country. I hope Lord Harcourt is well and so good as to remember me. I trust that you will have the goodness to say every things to him for me, as well as to your sisters. My Grandmother and father desire to be remembered to you, the latter hopes you have received a letter from him. I must now conclude this letter, which I hope you will excuse on account of the wish I had to assure you myself that I shall ever be,

"My dear Madam,

"your very affectionate and Grateful,

"V.

"If Mrs. Harcourt is in Town will you be so good as to tell her you heard from me, and that I have not had a letter from her since a long time, though I wish for one very much. I have just heard the two Ambassadors have crossed the sea, that indeed is dispair. I fear there is no hope left, oh! how miserable I am!!!!"

Letter from Madame D'Arblay.

MADAME D'ARBLAY [Miss Burney] to Countess Harcourt:—

"1818.

"DEAR MADAM,—The grief with which I have just read the letter which your Ladyship has done me the honour to write is bitter indeed—'tis the keen precursor of that grief of heart which knolls the last knell! and familiar to me as grief has been since the 3rd of last May, this is a stroke—for after such an account I look upon it as already struck—that bows me down with fresh sorrow. I should blush to name myself at such a period, but that I write immediately on reading the afflicting narration of those hopeless sufferings, & I have no command over my sad impulses.

"Equal to my honour of the Queen has long been my love for her, though her exalted station made the honour alone fit for public manifestation; but the Queen well knew the warm affection that was mingled with it, & encouraged & augmented it by a sweetness so expressive, so inviting, & so confidential, that, though no one could forget themselves a moment in her presence, I was always exhilerated, not awed, by it, always delighted, not intimidated, when she con-

descended to converse with me; and innumerable are the *Tête à Têtes* with which H.M. has deigned to indulge me. Alas! how heavy to me is the idea I must be indulged with no more! Again self is breaking forth, but my regrets at this melancholy moment will not submit to any controll, & there is a tone of sensibility running through the whole of your Ladyship's letter, that makes me build for pardon upon the belief of similar feelings.

"What an angel of generous virtues is the Duchess of Gloucester! with a heart so pierced with filial grief to bestow a thought upon sparing mine the shock of an abrupt communication of this dire impending blow! I dare not, at such a period, address personally my gratitude to H.R.H., but I will hope, from your Ladyship's great goodness to me, that H.R.H. may, in time, hear how deeply I am impressed by it. Indeed, it is not possible for me to say how highly I prize H.R.H.'s graciousness & favour.

"How touching, how beautiful, is the account that your Ladyship has drawn of the filial excellence now surrounding my revered and most beloved Queen! I can never forget your Ladyship's great kindness in presenting to me, at so awful a moment, so edifying a picture. The sweet Princess Augusta, who has no object in life—as the Duchess of Gloucester has expressed

it—but to do her duty, & make people happy, must now severely be tried . . . . yet 'tis the Princess Eliza, & the Princess Sophia I pity the most; the one gone, & now, for the first time, unable to share & shine in every duteous & fond attention; the other indisposed &, therefore, deprived, corporally, of exerting the fine & tender mental qualities which so much distinguish H.R.H.'s character. What your Ladyship mentions of the Prince Regent & of the Duke of York offers much consolation—all, indeed, that such a scene of affliction admits, in the view of the most exemplary of Mothers receiving this last pious tribute from her devoted Children.

"My affairs, or rather those of my son, will certainly force me 'ere long to London, & then, should I be recovered from my present very unwell state of health, I shall not surely be so much my own enemy as not to avail myself of your Ladyship's most obliging invitation. I shall, indeed, be most sincerely desirous to repeat my thanks for the truly interesting—though so deeply melancholy—details with which your Ladyship has had the goodness to make me acquainted. I will conscientiously forbear writing any more to Kew in this terrible interval, but I feel sure of your Ladyship's pardon that I found it impossible to withstand my wish to express my grateful acknowledgements, most respectfully, through

the medium of your Ladyship, to H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester, and, permit me to add, to H.R.H.esse's amiable & most obliging secretary.

"I have the honour to be,
"dear Madam,
"Your Ladyship's most obedt,
"& most obliged
"humble Servant,
"F. D'ARBLAY.

"*Bath*, 5*th Septr.*, 1818."

Letter from Miss Berry.

MISS BERRY to Earl Harcourt :—

"*N. Audley St., Wednesday*, 4*th Feby.*

"PERHAPS I ought to follow your example, my Lord, & avoid troubling 'in writing' with my acknowledgements for the little Vol. you have done me the honour of conveying to me by Mrs. Dawes, & of which I have read every word with much entertainment. But, as certainly, *mon propre ingratitude me pesera plus que l'ennui des autres*, I chuse to unburthen my conscience at your expense, & beg you, in spite of all your ingenious endeavours to avoid them, to accept of my best thanks. I long to know when I have any chance of being able to offer them to you in person at our fireside in N. Audley St., where I hope you have not forgot how well your society is bestowed, when you have any moments to spare us.

"I have the honour to be your
"Lordship's much obliged,
"M. BERRY."

Letter from Miss Fanshawe.

MISS C. M. FANSHAWE to Countess Harcourt :—

" *Wimpole St., Friday.*

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—The day of thanksgiving slipped thro' my fingers without my being able to fulfill all the agreeable duties of it, in which I had in my own mind included my grateful acknowledgements for all the kindness and happiness I have been enjoying at Nuneham. The best proof I can give of good will to my benefactors is that I most heartily wished them yesterday at S^{t}. James's Church, where M^{r}. Andrewes exceeded all the expectations of his hearers, which you may imagine were screwed pretty high upon such an occasion.

* * * * * *

"From the strain of humble piety in which he followed up the text of 'Beware that ye forget not the Lord your God,' we almost feared he would not have ventured to touch upon the praise of Mars, but the more delicately it was afterwards done the more striking was the effect, & Nelson's dying order 'That England expected every man should do his duty' (made into a sort of second text for the conclusion), which he ingeniously applied to woman also, shewing that there was no individual who might not, by obeying or neglecting this injunction, contribute to bring a blessing or a curse upon the arms of the brave defenders of their country.

* * * * * *

"Before I have quite done with the battle of Trafalgar (which you must not for your life pronounce as M^{r}. Richards has done, but accent the first syllable) I will add one word more of Lord Nelson, whose last order was in consequence of a request from Captain Hardy that he would make this exertion to satisfy the fleet of his existence, & proposed 'Lord Nelson expects,' &c., but this he refused, saying it would imply from him mistrust or reproach, & substituted 'England.' From the moment he knew his danger he never named his wound. All this is only second hand from Captain Blackwood, & your Ladyship will see I have made the most of old news for want of new. It is not new to find the King of Prussia, after all his fair promises, negotiating for himself, which General Don's last dispatch acknowledges to be the case. Our Troops are cantoned about Bremen, so it is to be hoped they will not be sent farther into a country which will do so little for itself. The Duke of York certainly does not go. I made too short a stay at Windsor to attempt waiting on M^{rs}. Harcourt,

but long enough to inquire much about the poor King's eyes, & to find that the increase of complaint had been very apparent to Lady Ely, who, from her long absence, was particularly well able to judge; indeed that without glasses he can now scarcely see at all, is plain from the circumstance of her having been able to examine them (while he was speaking to her of his sight) without his perceiving it. One eye, it seems, is quite gone, & has been lost for some time, almost without his consciousness of the period; the other bears no marks of ailment, which makes it plain there is no cataract in the case, tho' Phipp once thought it was coming on so fast as to be within a few weeks of maturity for the operation. But he says it has been absorbed into the vessels of the eye by the inflammation.

"The King rides still whenever the weather is favorable, Pss. Augusta always on one side of his horse, & one of his gentlemen on the other; which the learned say will always ensure a horse from starting or stumbling, as he is on his good behaviour when so narrowly watched by his fellow horsebreakers. Dear M^rs. Kennicott is in high bloom, & welcomed the large cargo of love which I so faithfully delivered to her from Nuneham. She thinks the alteration very considerable in poor M^rs. Barrington; her body much increased & her face & arms shrunk. She has no thought

at present of going at all to London, being fearful of the journey.

* * * * * *

"No snow has fallen in these parts, only mire, of which there is an accumulation about as large as the Pacific Ocean, between Hounslow & the Metropolis.

"I have scribbled on, to the tune of knocking up curtains & knocking down carpets, at a strange rate, & yet have not said a word of Lord Harcourt, & the tremendous cold with which he was threatened on Sunday night, but which I was happy to learn was on the wane Monday morning. I conclude his Lordship & M^rs. Preston are still up to the eyes in sympathy, & hope it will do them no harm, but cannot be so sanguine as to expect it will come to good; but, come what will, I think it very improper Lady Harcourt should have a finger in the pie (as Lady Louisa would say). *A propos* of Lady Louisa, her friend Lady Douglas has actually, I am told, transcribed the precious journal for me & sent it to y^e Duke of Montrose. Happy I! Was the last wreath complete by the day of Thanksgiving? I thought of it upon that occasion, & of the light heart your Ladyship would wear that day. May I beg you will give my best respects to Lord Harcourt, with love to Miss Anne Vernon & Miss Sudley, and a kiss to y^e Kittykin, & conclude, my dear

madam, with reserving a little corner in your own kind heart for her who is very gratefully & sincerely

"your affectionate
"C. M. FANSHAWE."

Letters from Miss Farren.

THE beautiful Miss Farren delighted the public for several years by her grace and accomplishments. She was one of those Queens of the stage whose society was sought by all who could appreciate talent and merit. On leaving the stage she was married to the Earl of Derby.

Miss Farren to Earl Harcourt :—

"IT is impossible for me to express how very much I am mortified at having so often missed the pleasure of seeing your Lordship. If I knew when you meant to honour me with a call I certainly would be at home—for I really long to see you. The reason of my being so much from home is that poor Lady Charlotte has been confined to her room for the last six weeks, and I generally am with her some part of every day; & as she lives as far as Bedford Row it takes up a great deal of time.

"I shall have the happiness of sending you a proof Print[a] this day, or to-morrow; I say hap-

[a] A print of herself which hangs at Nuneham.

piness because my Mother assures me you wish for it, and every new proof of your friendship is most gratifying to your Lordship's

"Obliged,

"ELIZA FARREN."

Miss Farren to Earl Harcourt :—

"MY LORD,—If you can, I hope you will honour us with your company on Monday next—you will only find a very few of your million of friends.

"I remain, my Lord,

"your most obliged,

"ELIZA FARREN.

"*Wednesday.*"

Countess of Derby to Earl Harcourt :—

"MY DEAR LORD HARCOURT,—I am infinitely obliged to your Lordship & to Lady Harcourt for your very kind attentions.

"I caught no cold (thanks to your Lordship), but really did dream of all sorts of frightful things —God keep us all safe!

"I am with great esteem, & let me add affection,

"Your Lordship's obliged Friend,

"E. DERBY [b].

"I must certainly go without a gown to-morrow, & my Lord without a coat."

[b] Lately Miss E. Farren.

Countess of Derby to the dowager Countess Harcourt :—

"*Novr. 22d*, 1818.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I feel so convinced that you will forgive me for expressing my anxious fears lest your health should suffer, that I take up my pen without hesitation. The loss you have sustained is one of all others, after near relations, that calls the most for sympathy; and I know your heart so well that mine aches for you.

"The nation will mourn our good Queen, I think, most bitterly; but you, her chosen and favourite friend, what must your feelings be? Do not, however, my dear Lady Harcourt, exert yourself too far in offering your last sad tribute of respect. I see accounts of your sitting up two nights; this should not be; and, if I did not think that Princess Augusta would prevent you from doing any thing likely to injure your health, I should feel very uncomfortable. I hope the long preparation for this calamity will have enabled you to support it with composure. I am sure your mind was fearful of a fatal termination to her Majesty's complaint when we last met; but you have the unspeakable pleasure of reflecting on your entire devotion to this afflicted friend, and that nothing, on your part, has been omitted

that could soften her sufferings or smooth the bed of sickness. How the Princesses must love you!

"May God preserve you, my dear Lady Harcourt, and sustain you in health to all your friends.

"Ever most affectionately yours,

"E. DERBY."

Letter from an Unknown Correspondent.

THE following Letter, without signature or date, is given in the concluding sheets of this volume as a specimen of some of the hardships undergone by private individuals at the time of the French revolution. Long may God ward off such scenes from our shores!

"THE Very friendly Interest you take in the distresses of my dear but unfortunate Sister Bode claims our utmost gratitude. In compliance with your kind desire of assisting us to represent her case to some of her former friends & acquaintance, I will enclose you a brief account of all she has suffered, & of her present situation; & tho' the meloncholy narative will I am sure excite yours and their pity & compassion, I flatter myself her heroic conduct cannot fail to claim the esteem & admiration of all who are made acquainted with it. Sometime before the troubles commenced in France they had an oportunity of making a very advantageous purchase in Alsace, which answer'd beyond their most sanguine hopes; so much

so, that, had it not been for the dreadful revolution that has since taken place, they would now have been in the most affluent circumstances. That was an event that no one could foresee; but they long stem'd the torrent of oppression, nor quitted their station till it was no longer safe to continue where they were. My sister & her children then retired to Baaden, where they received the utmost kindness from the Margrave & his family.

"The Baron still remain'd at Soultry to protect their property, till attack'd by a party of the National Gaurd at his own house, who declared they wou'd murder him; but by his astonishing coolness & presence of mind, & the fortunate interferance of their officer, who came up to find out the cause of the disturbance, he was providentially rescued; not thinking it, however, prudent to continue there longer, he crost the Rhine to my sister. They remained in this situation, till the decree was issued that all who possessed property in France must return by such a time or be declared emigrants; this they strictly observed; but, thinking it safer to reside in a fortified town than at their own house, unfortunately fix'd upon Weissembourg, which a very short time afterwards was made the head quarters of the French Army. They had the liberty, I beleive, of going to Soultry & else where, when they

pleased, but their every step was watch'd; & such was the suspicion of the times that they durst not speak or stir from home for fear of the supposition of being engaged in some plot. Here they suffer'd every indignity & mortification, the Baron ordered out as a common soldier to guard the vintage, degraded from their nobility, and declared incapable of possessing any places in the state, civil or military, because he had been born noble. My sister was made to serve in the hospitals, & to make tents and linen for the National Gaurd, and was not allow'd to have a sack of corn on pain of confiscation. Once they were four days without bread in the house; & without the assistance of their friends they must have been starved.

"At last they had information that they had no time to lose, for that there was an order issued out to seize the Baron as an emigrant; fortunately this intimation gave him time to escape, & on mature consideration my sister determined to follow him, which she did on foot, accompanied by her two eldest sons, & a faithful man servant, conducted by a guide, within hearing, and almost in sight of the French Army; but a merciful providence protected them, & after traversing pathless mountains above twenty miles, conducted them at last to a place of safety, where they had the happiness to join the Baron. The conflict to my sister was great indeed, when under the abso

lute necessity of leaving all the rest of her children behind; but, had she not done so, all must have perish'd, as the very next day after her departure they came to seize her; &, on finding she had escaped, put a seal on all their property, even to the most trivial of the children's apparel.

"The Monday was fix'd upon for everything to be sold, & the children turned out into the street if not worse; but the same kind Providence again preserved them, by delivering the town on the Sunday into the hands of the Austrians. The Count de Westenbourg was a most kind friend to them, & at his palace they continued till that no longer remained a place of safety, & all removed to another of his palaces near Worms; but public affairs growing every day more alarming, my sister once more took her flight with part of her family to the noble *chapitre* of *chanonesses* at Altenbourg, where the Baron's sister is lady Abbess; &, a very few days after, Weissenbourg being retaken, it was with the utmost difficulty the Baron was able to convey the rest of his children to the same place, where all were received with the most sisterly affection, and provided with every necessary; for, the change being so sudden, they scarcely preserved any thing; and, they not only lost their estate, but all their furniture, a very valuable collection of books, large stock of linen, in short every valuable they were possessed of.

"Till this unfortunate period they retain'd hopes of being able to struggle with all difficulties; & when things became settled that they should be restored to their property; but, Alas! all such hopes then vanish'd. The active spirit of my sister could ill brook living supinely inactive, a burthen to her generous friend; &, reading an Edict publish'd by the Empress of Russia, offering lands in the southern parts of Russia to any emigrants who would undertake to cultivate that part of her dominions, the idea of an establishment tempted her to seek the asylum offered; and in May last, accompanied by her eldest son, who was about seventeen, & the same servant who has attended her in all her difficulties, she set off on this expedition, with five crowns in her pocket; but like the widow's cruse her stock increased instead of diminishing; as she proceeded her recommendations gain'd her from place to place a friendly welcome, & at Berlin her reception from the Queen was indeed flattering.

"The Baron had from early youth been intimately acquainted with her Majesty, & her extream kindness to my sister evinces her to be as sincere as she is a powerful friend; she had the condescention to interest herself so much in their misfortunes as to desire her to relate all that had befallen her, reminded her that her youngest daughter was her godchild, & that in future she

should look upon her as her peculiar charge, & would also provide for one of her sons; she made her a very handsome present to defray her expences to Petersbourg, wrote herself to the Empress in her favour, & procured her other son such powerful recommendations as my sister now finds of the most essential advantage to her; for, had she not had such kind friends to represent her case, such is the amazing cloud of grandure & distance that envelops that Great Empress that her petition wou'd scarcely have penetrated. She represents it as the most inaccessible of all courts, but such recommendations could not fail of success; the graciousness of the Empress & her Ministers have been very great, and the petition is attended to, tho' the grant not yet made out; all business proceeding with extream slowness in Russia.

"Lands either in Livonia or the Crimea are promised to my sister, but I am fearful of the latter, for tho' an extream fine climate, & very fertile soil, yet, through being for many years the constant seat of war between the Turks & Russian Tartars, the Country is nearly depopulated, & every idea of Cultivation destroy'd; consequently they would have many difficulties to surmount; 'tis a very melancholy reflection for her family, that this is likely to prove her future destination; it is so very remote (being a Peninsula adjoining to Crim Tartary), that I fear we must relinquish all hope of ever

seeing her more; yet we must admire the fortitude & resolution with which she determines to undertake this dangerous enterprize, in the hope of a future provision for her family.

"The Empress promises to take upon herself the education of the children, & to give some money towards enabling her to begin this great work; but, as much will be required for such an undertaking, destitute as they are at present, she writes to us to request we will represent her case to her relations & friends in this country, & to intercede that they will afford their kind contributions towards her first establishment; &, from the distinguished friendship & assistance she has been favoured with in the many countries her peculiar fate has made her acquainted with, she flatters herself she shall meet with equal commiseration & generosity in her native land. Were her sisters equal to affording her the whole of this assistance, this subject would not have been mention'd, but, as that is not the case, (tho' applying even to friends for pecuniary relief is wounding to the feelings of sensibility) we cannot refuse her this sacrifice, to second her praise-worthy endeavours to rescue her helpless family from destruction. Excuse my troubling you with so long a Letter, but I could not bring all I wish'd to inform you of in less compass."

Letter from Mr. Walter.

TO the Rt. Hon. Earl Harcourt :—

"*London, Oct.* 31, 1790.

"My Lord,—Having experienced a long and cruel confinement in Newgate for the mere sale of The Times at my shop in Piccadilly, which contained matter for which I was prosecuted by the three eldest Princes, during the heat of Party, while the Regency Bill was agitated; and, not chusing to expose myself hereafter to further trouble, I have given up the sale of it, from Michaelmas last, to Mr. Dyer, at the New White Horse Cellar, near Old Bond-Street, who will, I doubt not, carefully attend to it hereafter. I therefore take the liberty to enclose my bill to that time, and return you my sincere thanks for past favours.

"Any orders in Book and Stationary lines will be gratefully acknowledged by,

"My Lord,

"Your most oblig'd

"and obedient Servant,

"John Walter."

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THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

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PREFACE.

THE recent discovery of a parcel of documents relating to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland under Simon, Earl Harcourt, necessitates a retrograde treatment of these papers. It was at the option of the Editor to have comprised this new matter in a second part to be added to the third volume, or else to allow the ninth volume to return to the Memoir of Simon, Earl Harcourt. The latter course has been adopted, as the irregularity appeared to be of little moment in dealing with a series of family papers which are not bound by any strict rules of chronology.

In preparing this collection for the press more care has been taken to select papers illustrative of Lord Harcourt's private feelings and position, than to cull out only such as are of public interest.

The series commences with a few letters

from Lord Harcourt's Secretary at the end of his embassage to Paris.

The said Secretary was a devoted but a somewhat impetuous servant. He did his employer good service, but at the same time occasionally led him into difficulties. Lord Harcourt always stood by him faithfully, as is more particularly shewn in some of the unprinted letters.

The illustrations which these letters display of the methods adopted to obtain parliamentary influence were by no means peculiar to Ireland in those days; although from the smaller field of action there those methods became more conspicuous.

What will strike the reader most especially is the apparent calm that reigned, and the absence of complaints that prevailed, under such a system of government.

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Harcourt Papers.

AS has been explained in the Preface, the present volume commences with the last year of Lord Harcourt's tenure of office as Ambassador to the French Court. The size of the volume greatly exceeds what was anticipated; little room, therefore, is left for editorial remarks, and, indeed, the letters which follow speak sufficiently for themselves.

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Paris, August 29th*, 1771.

"My Lord,— . . . The Prince de Beauveau is dismissed from the government of Languedoc, it being signified to him, in the politest terms, that it could not be agreable to him to do any business in the king's name which would be so very repugnant to his declared principles at the *Lit de Justice*. The Comte de Perigord is appointed in his stead, which many people think will move Mr. B.

to resign his company of guards; this is the news of the day.

* * * * * *

"We have been all exceeding anxious about your voyage, as Capt. Affleck says a more rascally day than Sunday was never seen; but it has rather cleared up since, and we are not without hopes that you may have had moderate weather for your passage yesterday.

* * * * * *

"I thank you, my Lord, much for the Pye, 'twould have been a shame to eat it by oneself. I gave it to Mrs. Abington—she gave it to Mademoiselle Arnould; we supped upon it at her house; 'twas excellent beyond measure, quite *a la suprême*. The ladies were charming company—we are to have a repitition of it, not of the Pye, but everything else, next Monday.

* * * * * *

"The D. de Richelieu sets off to-morrow *pour faire la besoigne* of the Parliament of Bordeaux. It is thought Monsr. de Ducas will be removed from the government of Britany, and Monsr. l'Abbé Jerraie from his department, as soon as 'tis settled whether 'tis to be the Chancellor or Mr. D'Aiguillon that is to have the nomination of his successor. People are scarcely yet come to town, tho' I have no right to complain, having received many polite messages and invitations.

The Count D'Ezek was here himself to-day to invite me for to-morrow, upon which, as upon ten thousand more important matters, you have, my Lord, my warm and millions of thanks.

* * * * * *

"I hope my good friend the Colonel[a] is with you, may I offer my grateful and most affectionate remembrance & service to him—my respects to my Lord & Lady Newnham? I am, my Lord, with the truest devotion & gratitude, your most & ever obliged & faithful humble servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Paris, Sept. 3rd*, 1771.

"MY LORD,—The Duke D'Aiguillon told me this morning that as you were so much *au fait* of all the Canada business, he had thought it right and the shortest way too, to signify to you their determination upon it; that he had informed you they would pay 200,000 livres yearly and regularly; and, as the whole sum did not exceed two millions, everything within a certain space of time would be finally adjusted. I told him I was fearfull that a period so very distant as nine or ten years for the final liquidation of this account would

[a] Lord Harcourt's second son.

be very ill received by the proprietors of the Canada paper; and that they would hardly be brought to acquiesce to it. He said the original right was very questionable, and that it was principally property purchased from French subjects. I told him I had never seen it stated in that light; that, on the contrary, as far as I had understood, the original right had been very fully acknowledged; but that, as he had taken his arrangements abroad, it would not become me to trouble him with my private opinions upon the matter, as he would soon receive an answer to his letter.

"He was much hurried and full of business, having had the foreign ministers with him (then two o'clock) since eight in the morning,—the Spanish and Imperial ambassadors, each closetted for near an hour. I just touched upon the unfortunate writers of the French Gazette—that I had presumed to hope their fate was not absolutely determined; he said 'beyond redemption,' for that he was to see and settle with their successors this very evening. I told him I was indeed very sorry for it, as I had reason to believe he would have some importunity from London upon the subject; as when you left Compiegne I had understood it to be your intentions to request his good offices *aupres de sa Majesté tres Chretienne* to have them restored. It is inconceivable what a fuss this makes in Paris. Many of your particular friends are

very anxious advocates for them. Prince Louis has spoke to me vastly about them; but nobody dares speak to the Duke D'Aiguillon. Prince Louis told me just now the income was 30,000 livres a year—that one of 'em will not want bread. It is not probable they should be reappointed, but I do think some consideration may be obtained for them, if there should be no objection to your exercising your wonted humanity.

* * * * * *

"At Mr. Anson's request I promised to speak about his affairs to Mr. de Boïsne.

* * * * * *

"I had to-day an opportunity of doing so. With all the openness imaginable Mr. de Boïsne told me that tho' Mr. Anson's charges were exorbitant yet he had grounds for his complaints; that it was from motives of simple justice and humanity that he protracted giving his judgment, which had been some time settled in his mind; but, that he could not do so till he knew the kind of specie with which it was intended to reimburse this gentleman; 'for,' says he, 'I should be doing but miserable justice in paying him 100 livres in paper, which, perhaps, hereafter would fetch but sixty. I wait only for this decision from Mr. L'Abbé Jerrai and his officer. We must give them a little time—*vous m'entendez bien.* I must not hold this language to Mr. Anson—*cela ne conviendrait pas*—

but let him rest assured he shall be satisfied.' I must own, my Lord, this kind of integrity and language, where (God forgive me) it was so little expected, struck me with astonishment. I shall begin to think Mr. de Boïsne's heart almost upon a par with his head; than which you know there are none superior hereabouts.

"Mr. De Bloome told me that in a conversation t'other day with the Spanish Ambassador the latter told him that it was principally on account of the French that all things had been interdicted the Spanish ports. It seems to me an odd declaration. The Duke D'Aiguillon dined to-day at the Imperial Ambassador's—he enquired much after your Lordship, and was monstrous civil to me. Talking about the models of the fortifications that are kept in the Louvre, he told me he would send me an order to see them at all times when I pleased, a favour you may be sure I should not have dreamt of asking, and at which some of those who were near us stared. Monsr. de Breteuil in a fit of delicacy is gone for a fortnight into the country, that he may give M. de Guines all the fair play imaginable, and not be thought to machinate against him. Mr. Preston, being luckily detained till night for his passport, furnished me with this opportunity of writing to your Lordship. I presume you will communicate some part of this letter to my Lord Rochford. I should have addressed his

Lordship myself, had not Duke D'Aiguillon told me his letter upon this business was to you, which makes the same channel more natural.

"I have the honor to be, and ever shall be, my Lord, with the utmost respect and gratitude,

"yr most faithfull servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Paris, Septr. 11th*, 1771.

"MY LORD,— . . . The Duke D'Aiguillon was so busied yesterday we did not sit down to dinner till near 4 o'clock. He took me aside after dinner, and again talked to me about our newspapers—the Portsmouth paragraph—asking me in the most friendly manner if it was really impossible to punish the people, or check it. As he read the translation of the papers daily, I told him he must have observed what audacious attacks were made constantly upon everything we had which was most sacred, from which he would readily judge of the impossibility of preventing it. If, however, this Portsmouth paragraph is absolutely without foundation, I believe it would make them happy to receive some civil message upon it; which I could readily deliver if it was thought proper. He had been told your Lordship was not to return, which I thought I could safely contra-

dict, and which I did contradict most peremptorily, to his satisfaction.

"In the course of the conversation he gave me a fair opportunity (for we are monstrous well together) of asking him about Messrs. Breteuil & de Guines; he shook his head, as much as to say he would not talk upon the subject; giving me to understand things were not quite ripe for the purpose. By the by, M. de Guines, notwithstanding what waits for him, was received by the King with rather extraordinary marks of attention; a practise not uncommon with his most Christian Majesty when a man is doomed to destruction. The Utrecht Gazette is suspended, by order, for the humorous history they gave of the cavalcade which your Lordship saw at Compiegne. Mr. Turpin has asked to go to the confederates, but has been refused. M. Viomeuil, they say, is absolutely to have the command in chief of all the confederates, when he arrives. But Mr. Wilhourski told us yesterday he was only to assist with his councils. I dined a most agreable party at the Nonce's, Sunday, there were of the corps, besides my insignificant self, only the Sardinian, Venetian, and Neapolitan Ambassadors, so that I look upon it and am told it is a mark of distinguishing favor. He drank your health, and it was in the best Burgundy without exception I ever tasted in my life. I am just invited for the same party

next Sunday at Venice. Madme Du Deffend (who, by the by, will not let me in quiet if I don't sup every other night at her house) takes all occasions of abusing her friend Mr. Robt Walpole to me like a pickpocket. Mr. Bordeau told me two gentlemen of his acquaintance had offered fifty thousand pounds for the tobacco contract; which he yet thinks Mr. J. Walpole will have, thro' the means and negotiation of Mr. Necker the minister of Geneva.

"Your horses are all well. I have too many things to thank you for. I have forgot ever to mention them. If they had half my vanity they would thank me for giving them so many occasions of being admired. I expected *les deux avares* to-night for the Colonel, but they have disappointed me. It is now that I am going to write with pain what you will read in tears. Poor Madame la Duchesse de Rochefoucault was thrown from her horse, who had run away with her, and fractured her skull. She was trepanned without feeling it, lingered four days, and died yesterday morning; regretted as she will be by you and all worthy people for ever. I love the Dauphiness more than ever for having tears in her eyes yesterday morning when she talked about her.

"I am, my Lord, ever & unfeignedly

"Your obliged & devoted Servt,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Paris, Dec. 29th*, 1771.

"MY LORD,—You will have approved, I hope, of my sending off the messages the day before yesterday, the moment I received the Duke d'Aiguillon's memorandum; which I look upon as decisive with regard to the ill intentions of Spain.

* * * * * *

"What I picked up from Count Fuentes was exceeding strong; the Duke's anxiety greater than ever; and, all things combined, every information I could obtain I thought it necessary to communicate without delay; both on account of your Lordship's departure, and of the meeting of Parliament. We have been a little, indeed not a little, alarmed at these Irish affairs. The Lord-Lieutenant must be changed—the eyes of the world are upon your Lordship as the natural & only man to do the king's business there. Should such an event happen I shall look on myself as the most miserable of men.

* * * * * *

"However, there is some comfort in your own letter. You seem to think Lord Weymouth may be the man. I have not usually been so self-

interested—but, forgive me, my Lord, you cannot think how much pleasure those lines have given me.

* * * * * *

"The Dutch Ambassador desired me to remind you of his chaise and some porter, that I think you was so good to promise him. M. de Lugeac says you were so kind to engage sending him six bottles of peppermint-water, & some turnip-seed.

"Mr. Barnard, who, as I understand, has been employed buying prints of drawings for the king, desired I would send in my name for a catalogue of the French king's library; as I find it will not be delivered without a formal application to M. de la Vrilliere, I did not chuse doing it without consulting your Lordship, begging you to tell me how far such a step may be approved of.

"I am ever, my Lord, with most unfeigned attachment & gratitude,

"Your obedt & devoted Servt,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

In the month of June, 1772, Lord Harcourt accepted the Lord-Lieutenancy of Ireland. He appointed Colonel Blaquiere his Secretary. It appears that Lord North had rather expected to be consulted on that

matter, as the appointment was one of great pecuniary value.

Difficulties beset Lord Harcourt's advent to Ireland, no less than his departure from it. The letters, however, will tell their own tale.

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*London, Wed., July 1st*, 1772.

"MY LORD,— ... The whole arrangement stands thus. My Lord Townshend is to remain in Ireland till you arrive ; there is to be no *interregnum*, Lords Justices, or deputy.

* * * * * *

"The vessel which carries one Lord-Lieutenant is to bring the other back ; and upon your signyfying from Holyhead your arrival there, my Lord Townshend will embark on board his yacht in Dublin Bay, and await your arrival in Ireland. My Lord Stormont awaits Sir R. Keith's arrival at Vienna ; he has not yet accepted the French Embassage, tho' there is not a doubt he will ; but the delay in his answer prevents Keith's appointment. Lord Suffolk told me, however, he thought he would be named on Friday. In the mean time Sir Robt setts out in a few days, not for Vienna but for Scotland, to solace himself with his friends,

and get some relaxation from business ; after which he will have to prepare his equipages and other matters for his journey, which, upon a moderate computation, may carry us at least into September. He does not fly in his travels neither, but goes round by Dresden, where some days at least may be spent ; and if he getts to Vienna the beginning of October 'twill be the utmost.

* * * * * *

"I have taken the liberty to represent these matters particularly to my Lord Suffolk, whom I have found exceedingly disposed to hear what I have had to say. It was rational to ask which Ambassador we were to acknowledge at Paris on my Lord Stormont's arrival ; and, as one of the two must naturally be on the *Pavée*, to which of them that favor was destined.

* * * * * *

"*Friday, 3 July.* My Lord Rochford has just informed me that the king, having considered the inconvenience which the awaiting in Paris my Lord Stormont's arrival must be to your affairs, had directed him to acquaint your Lordship you were at liberty to quit Paris the first week in August ; and that he further wished to know how long you would desire to remain in England before you passed into your Government. I conclude this to be done with a view of acquainting Lord Townshend when he must prepare for his

return, and that they may send him orders accordingly. From what I collected in my conversation with Lord Rochford, it seems to be expected that you may require six weeks or two months to tarry in England, to settle your own private affairs, and prepare for the undertaking.

* * * * * *

"I am to dine *en famille* to-morrow with my Lord Rochford, which will I hope enable me to bring you further particulars, and to settle the hour of my own departure.

* * * * * *

"I was two hours with my Lord North this morning; not a word about anything but finance, upon which he was pleased to say I had afforded him considerable information.

* * * * * *

"The Queen asked again much about your Lordship's health, which was being very gracious and kind to me. I have a power of things to relate when I have the happiness of seeing your Lordship; enough to overwhelm and stagger even your patience.

* * * * * *

"I am ever, my Lord, your obliged and devoted Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Leicester House, Wednesday, July 24th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—The King did me the honour to speak to me very graciously at his levee to-day, and to call me into his closet afterwards, where he asked me much about the internal state of affairs in France, &c., as I shall have the honor of telling you when it is my good fortune to see you again. I had a long conversation with Lord Suffolk, who is officiating for Lord Rochford, and with my Lord North some confabulation also. Lord Suffolk and Lord Rochford are both of them incredulous about Portugal, tho' I think I have staggered their faith. Lord Suffolk has desired me to come to him at Hampton to dinner on Sunday, that we may again talk the matter over. Lord Rochford behaved to me with the utmost frankness, and in a way that makes me much obliged to him.

"Lord North received me with cold and distant civility, but in the course of the conversation, touching by accident upon the topic of their French finances, which I believe he found I was acquainted with much better than himself, he soon changed his note, entered with politeness into a warm discussion upon the subject, and beged me to come to him at Bushey Park that we may

discuss the matter at ease together. It is my duty to pardon his reserve at the first approach, as he is much disappointed not to have the disposal of your Chief Secretary-ship. The office was meant to be continued to Sir G. M[c]Cartney, or as a provision for Colonel Burgoyne. Lord Rochford is very inaccurate in his intelligence about my Lord Stormont's movements. I find he is ordered to remain at Vienna till Sir R. Smith's arrival. Sir Rob[t] Keith only came to London last Saturday, and told me to-day he had no orders yet about setting off. Langley refuses to return to Vienna, so that my Lord Stormont must have patience; and indeed it looks altogether as if they were very well satisfied to have y[r] Lordship at Paris as long as they can.

"My Lord Suffolk told me Lord Townshend has desired to stay in Ireland a much longer time than was reasonable. I took the liberty to ask him if it could be conducive to good government to suffer the man who was to quit the country before the engagement began, to retain the controul of affairs with all the consequential advantages, at the expense of the person who was to bear the brunt & heat of the day. 'Certainly not, very improper,' says my Lord, 'and you may depend upon it, it shall be represented and it must be considered.' Indeed, my Lord, I cannot help thinking that you will find it necessary to ask

leave to present yourself in London, and it is impossible that there can be any objection to leaving me in charge at Paris, where there is certainly nothing, just now, to do.

* * * * * *

"However, according to the intelligence I shall be able to pick up and send you in my next, you will be able to form a better judgment upon the matter. Mr. Jenkinson[b], as I mentioned in my last, is much hurt at not seeing his brother in your family[c]; he seems to rest a good deal on having furnished such early intelligence respecting your appointment, and says that it appears almost impossible you could then have been engaged. I told him that I understood from your Lordship, nay, that you had told me, you thought one of your aid-de-camps something below his walk—'not a bit,' he says. I undertook to mention the matter to you.

* * * * * *

"I find M[r]. Jenkinson peculiarly circumstanced in the case. He has been ill used in it by Lord Townshend, and even by Lord North, and I believe has since refused preferment and favor for his brother from them both, depending upon your kindness and protection.

* * * * * *

[b] Afterwards Lord Liverpool.
[c] i.e. the Lord Lieutenant's household.

"The Irish Establishment is as follows:—The Lord-Lieutenant has £16,000 a year—£3,000 for his equipage on being appointed. The Chief Secretary's income may amount to from £3,500 to £4,000 a year (I thank your Lordship), and generally four hundred, at his starting, is voted in council for his advantage. Two aid-de-camps are kept on the establishment, the other four are paid by Government also, but it is by warrant. There are two Chaplains in ordinary, and, at times, there have been as many as three; these are suposed to have claims on the Lord-Lieutenant's goodness for preferment. The Viceroy sends three, four, even to the extent of five transmisses of bills in a session, which yield each a benefit of £300. They are given to such as he pleases to oblige; but gentlemen are no longer the actual carriers of the instruments, which are transferred with £40 to a messenger. The fees may amount to about as much more, so that there remains upon every transmiss a nett profit of about £220. The controller and steward of the Lord-Lieutenant's household are paid with one of these.

"The riding master getts of the *concordatum* money about £100 every session; the gentleman usher much the same. Two gentlemen of the bed chamber who preceed his Excellency, and march on all occasions when he appears in public, have commonly the profits of a bill between them.

There are eight 'gentlemen at large,' who have nothing to do, nor a great deal to receive; they only wait behind you at table and have a claim for a belly full. Two pages, who are educated and clothed at your expense, close, as far as I can at present tell, this list. Footmen, porters, and all the menial train, Sir. R. Wilmot could not inform me about; but he wrote last night to Dublin, & will forward the information to me in Paris as soon as it can be made out. I am sorry to find Sir Robert is going to quit the office; he has recommended to Lord Townshend his son for his successor, who has approved of him, and he much hopes that your Lordship will confirm it. Sir Robert tells me he has all along worked with him in the office, & that he shall still continue to give him his assistance; upon these terms Sir Robert's quitting will not be so distressing.

* * * * * *

"*Friday, 26th.* Mr. Jenkinson talked to me much concerning the recommendation you had received in favor of Lord Bute's son. I think I found that it appeared to him that Lord Bute has met with some slights from some of his friends. He is, therefore, particularly anxious you should, as you cannot appoint him one of your aid-de-camps, give him some promise of preferment, such as leave to purchase a company, or the company without the purchase; and he wishes that on this

subject you would write him such a letter as he may shew to my Lord Bute. I cannot help repeating how very anxious Mr. Jenkinson appears to be to have some immediate public token of your friendship, thro' the means of his brother.

* * * * * *

"I think I have found out that what he would like would be to be an aid-de-camp, or secretary for Ulster; the latter I take to be every way the more considerable employment. I am confident either of these offices, given immediately, would make Mr. Jenkinson very much beholden to you..."

From Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Paris, Aug. 26th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—The Compiegne journey is over, and no Mr. St. Paul[d]. The corps diplomatic, the king, and the Royal family go to Versailles tomorrow. I cannot well describe to your Lordship the great effect this princely conduct of His Majesty has had here. Luckily, Cotes, by an accident which does not often happen to him, arrived with our despatches ten minutes before the French courrier, which put the whole game into my hands. The Duke knew nothing of any dispute at Newfoundland. 'How can you, sir,' I asked him, 'when I have but this instant orders to declare?' &c.

[d] The new Secretary to Embassy.

The Duke and all the world cry'd praise and wonder. The phlegmatic Fuentes, who I believe a very honest man, kissed both my cheeks, and said there was no king like mine in the world. I refer your Lordship to my dispatch, which is perhaps too circumstantial.

* * * * * *

"The inclosed papers come to me from the Duke of Aiguillon. It will be less troublesome for your Lordship to read them and return them to me with your orders, than to have attended to any extract of my making..."

Instructions.

THE following were the Instructions furnished to Lord Harcourt when he was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. They are here given at full length.

"Instructions for Our right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin and Councillor Simon, Earl Harcourt, whom we have appointed to be Our Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Our Kingdom of Ireland. Given at Our Court at St. James's the Seventeenth Day of October, 1772, in the Twelvth Year of Our Reign.

"GEORGE R.

"Having upon serious consultations for the peace, prosperity and good Government of Our Kingdom of Ireland, made choice of you, for the effecting those ends, as a person of approved loyalty, wisdom, courage, moderation, and integrity, to be Our Lieutenant to represent Our Royal Person there; and having, for the authorizing you therein, already caused Letters Patent to be passed unto you, under Our Great Seal of Great Britain, We doubt not but you will pursue all prudent courses for the good Government, and

increase of the profit of the same. And for the better enabling you thereunto, We do hereby give you full power, and authority to keep the peace, the laws, and commendable customs of Our said Kingdom, to govern all Our people there, to chastize and correct offenders, and to countenance and encourage such as shall do well. And We do also think fit to prescribe unto you some things which will be necessary for you to observe in the Government; and therefore We do hereby direct and enjoin you.

1st.

"That you do, forthwith, with what convenient speed may be, inform yourself particularly of the present state of that Our Kingdom, in all the parts thereof, and what is therein amiss, and by what means the same may be best provided for, and thereof transmit to Us an account in writing, to the end We may receive a perfect knowledge of the same.

2nd.

"And forasmuch as the first, and principal foundation of good success in all our actions, doth rest upon the true service of God, We do especially require it of you, that above all things, you endeavour to settle matters so in the Church, that Almighty God may be well served. In order whereunto you are to take care that the Spiritual Livings in Our gift, as they shall become void,

be supplied by pious and Orthodox persons, who, being of good repute, may reside upon their Benefices; and you are also to persuade other patrons of Livings to do the like, and to avoid all manner of corruption in bestowing the same.

3rd.

"We do well know how much it concerns the happiness of our subjects, as well as the reputation of Our Government, that there may be an equal and impartial administration of justice in Our several Courts of Judicature of that Our Kingdom, and therefore it must be your particular care, whom We have placed in supreme authority under Us, in that Kingdom, to enquire diligently into the same, how the Judges and Ministers in Our several Courts of Judicature do behave themselves in the discharge of their respective trusts, to the end, that such as are found to deserve ill may be removed, and their places filled with persons of better merit.

4th.

"We having thought fit to appoint Commissioners to manage Our whole revenue in that Our Kingdom, Our pleasure is, that you do from time to time, assist, countenance and support Our said Commissioners, and the officers employed by them, upon all occasions, & as justice and Our service

shall require; And you shall also take care that all Our judges, officers and ministers, more especially the Barons of Our Court of Exchequer, do give them all fitting despatch and countenance. You shall also frequently call upon them to give an account of their proceedings in the management of the Commission, and the execution of the trust We have committed to them, of which you are, from time to time, to transmit an account to Us.

5th.

"In the survey of escheated, or concealed lands, you shall take care that a better valuation shall be made for Us, than heretofore hath been accustomed; and that Our Surveyor certify no value upon any particular, before a view and inquisition first made and taken of the land, either by himself, or his sufficient Deputy authorised.

6th.

"Whensoever there shall be any letters from Us, for disposing of any money to public uses, and there shall be other letters, at the same time, for the payment of any money to any particular persons; in all such cases, you shall prefer the public letters before the private.

7th.

"In case it shall happen, at any time, that Our revenues should not hold out to pay the whole

Establishment, you shall take care that the same be not applied to the payment of any pensions, until the rest of the Military and Civil list be first paid; and if, afterwards, the same will not hold out to the payment of all the pensions, you shall cause a proportionable abatement to be made out of each of them.

8th.

"You shall give no orders upon any letters which shall come from Us, for granting any money or lands, or releasing or abating of any rents, or other sums of money due to Us in Our said Kingdom, unless a petition has been first presented to Us, which petition is either to be recommended by you, or the same to be transmitted to you by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and your sense and opinion is to be had thereupon; afterwards such petition shall be referred to Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our Realm, for the time being, who are to be made acquainted with what you shall write, either in recommending such petition, or upon the transmission of any such to you; and our said Commissioners' report, or the report of the High Treasurer for the time being, is to be had thereupon, before any letter or order be signed.

9th.

"You shall, as often as you shall see convenient,

order an exact muster to be taken of all Our forces there, that so it may appear if each regiment, company, or troop, be effectually of the number it ought to be, and which we allow upon the pay rolls; taking care it may be done at different times, and at such, and so many convenient places of rendezvous, as may not, in anywise, endanger the safety of the garrisons during the time the soldiers shall be so drawn out. And you shall then and there cause the following oath, and no other, except such as are prescribed by Act of Parliament, to be administered to all the officers and soldiers of the Army, who have not already taken the same, and to all the Governors of towns, forts & castles, who shall be made hereafter, and to such other as you shall think fit, and such of them as shall refuse the said oath, you are to cashier and dismiss the service.

"The Oath of fidelity to be taken by every Officer, Soldier and Governor as above mentioned.

"'I swear to be true to our Sovereign Lord King George the third, and to serve him honestly & faithfully in the defense of his person, Crown, and dignity, against all his enemies and opposers whatsoever, & to observe and obey His Majesty's orders, & the orders of the Generals & Officers set over me by His Majesty. So help me God.'

10th.

"Whereas We have thought fit to retain to ourselves, the power of granting Commissions to any Officer in Our Army, or to any Governor, or other Officer of any of Our forts & castles, in that Our Kingdom of Ireland, and to reserve the same to Our own disposal; and it being also Our intention to sign for the future, with Our own hand all Commissions for such offices, and employments, when any of them shall become vacant, you shall forthwith advise Us thereof; and Our will and pleasure is, that at such times as you shall be attending Our Royal Person, you do present the Commissions for such offices and employments unto Us, for Our Royal signature, and do countersign the same; and that, in your absence in Our said Kingdom, they be presented unto Us, and countersigned by one of Our principal Secretaries of State, but that the fees, which should have become due and payable to such Secretary of State, upon such Commissions, so to be by him presented and countersigned, shall nevertheless be paid to your Secretary.

11th.

"You are likewise to take care that Our forces be quartered by such fit rules, as have been heretofore observed, and so as may be with the least burthen, and inconvenience to Our subjects; and, to that end you are to give strict charge that they

be orderly in their quarters, according to such exact discipline, as you shall find fit to prescribe to them; and that the officers be not allowed or permitted to detain, or keep in their hands the soldiers' pay, after it shall be due to, & actually paid out for them; and that no officer be permitted to be absent from his command, without licence first obtained from you. And, in case any of the officers of Our said forces shall at any time misbehave himself, you shall either cause him to be tried, in due manner, or else immediately to be suspended, as you shall think fit, till you have represented the matter to Us, and received Our pleasure upon it.

12th.

"Being informed that there have been frequent duels and quarrels between the Officers of Our Army there, We have thought fit, in order to prevent the same for the future, hereby to authorize and empower you, to cashire from time to time, all such Officers as shall send, receive or deliver any challenge, or give any real affront to any other. And Our pleasure also is, that you declare to such Officer, or Officers so offending that he or they shall never more be employed in Our Service.

13th.

"You shall, with what speed conveniently you

may, cause a survey and account to be taken of the present state of Our castles, forts and places, of Our magazines, and also of the Military Stores, and train of Artillery. And you are to report to Us, what fortifications are fit to be kept up, and which dismantled; and for the better supplying Our Stores henceforth with powder, you shall endeavour to erect and set up the art of making salt petre, within that Our Kingdom.

14th.

"You shall, in all things, endeavour to advance and improve the trade of that Our Kingdom, so far as may consist with the laws made, and in force, for the welfare and benefit of commerce in this Our Realm of Great Britain, and more especially with those which relate to Our foreign plantations: and we particularly recommend to you the improvement and encouragement of the linen manufacture in that Our Kingdom.

15th.

"You shall give all lawful encouragement to all Protestant Strangers resorting to that Our Kingdom; and if a considerable number of them shall be willing to establish themselves in any great cities or towns, or in any other fit places for trade or manufactures, upon representation of the same to Us, We shall give orders, that they shall enjoy

such privileges, as may consist with the laws and peace of that Our Kingdom.

16th.

"You must be careful, more particularly, to renew a strict and severe prohibition against the transportation of wool, to any parts beyond the seas, causing a sufficient security to be taken, that whatever quantities shall be, at any time, shipped for Great Britain, be truly brought & landed here, and not carried (as We are informed is but too commonly done) into foreign parts: for the effectual preventing whereof, Our pleasure is, that you take strict order that all such Bonds as shall become forfeited, be, with all vigour and faithfulness, prosecuted against the offenders, without collusion or connivance in those entrusted in that prosecution. And for the better discovery of all frauds therein, you shall cause an exact account of all such Bonds to be, from three months to three months, transmitted to Our Commissioners of Our treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our realm, for the time being; which We will direct shall be compared with Certificates from the officers of Our Customs, of the several Ports of this Our Kingdom of Great Britain.

17th.

"You shall, by the best means you can, prevent a general abuse We hear hath been committed in

that Our Kingdom, by the unlawful making, coining, and vending, of small money for change, much to the loss and wrong of Our Subjects, and of ill consequence to the Government, if not remedied.

18th.

"And that you may be the better enabled to discharge the great trust We have reposed in you, by committing the Administration of that Our Kingdom to you, We do declare,

"That We will not admit of any particular complaint of injustice, or oppression against any, in Our said Kingdom, unless it appear that the party have first made his address to you.

"That the places in the Chief Governor's gift shall be left freely to your disposal, and accordingly We will not pass them to any person, upon suit made to us here.

"That no new Offices shall be erected in that Our Kingdom, till you have been made acquainted therewith, and certified your opinion upon the matter to Us.

"That no letters or orders from hence for the payment of any money shall be directed immediately to the receiver of that Our Kingdom, but to you, and no payment made upon any such letters or orders from hence, without your warrant thereupon, shall be allowed upon the Receiver General's Accounts.

"That no Patent for granting land, money, or the releasing or abating of any rents in Our said Kingdom shall be passed here, without you have first been made acquainted therewith; which rule We have directed to be entered in Our Signet Office, and other Offices here that may be concerned therein.

19th.

"And We do also leave it wholly to you, to give licence of absence out of Our said Kingdom, to any Councillor, Bishop, Governor or other Officer of State, or of the Army, or to any of the Judges, or the learned Council.

20th.

"When any vacancy shall happen of any Ecclesiastical or Civil Office, or place which We have reserved to Our own disposal, and is excepted in your Commission, you shall forthwith advise Us thereof, and also recommend to Us, a fit person for the said place, and We do hereby declare that We will not dispose of any such vacancy, till we have received your recommendation, which if We shall not agree to, but think fit to confer the said vacant Office or place on any other person, We will not grant, or sign any letter for granting the same, till We shall know whether you have any objection to make to it.

21st.

"You shall, from time to time, inform Us, truly and impartially, of every man's particular diligence and care in Our service there, to the end We may bestow marks of Our favour upon such as do well. In order whereunto, Our express pleasure is, that you do not grant any confirmation of a reversion of any office or employment in that Our Kingdom, or suffer any new grant of a reversion to pass hereafter; and you are to take care that all vacant offices or places be granted only during Our pleasure. And, whereas We have resolved that, for the future, no place or employment, whether Civil or Military, shall be sold, you are not to permit the same accordingly: and if any such place or employment shall be bought, such person so buying it, shall immediately, upon the discovery of it, be discharged from such place or employment: and if any person shall receive or take any more money than the accustomed fees for such place or employment, such person shall be discharged from his place and employment, and be further prosecuted according to law.

22nd.

"You shall give no orders upon any letters signed by Us, for granting money, or lands, pensions, titles of honour, or employments in Ireland, unless such letters have been first entered at Our

Signet Office here, whereby the disorder in procuring Our grant of the same thing to several persons will be prevented.

23rd.

"You shall direct all propositions moving from you, touching matters of the revenue, to Our Commissioners of Our Treasury, or Our High Treasurer of this Our realm for the time being, and all other despatches for that Our Kingdom, to one of Our principal Secretaries of State, and We do declare We will have it done by the hands of William Henry, Earl of Rochford.

24th.

"If any warrants, letters, orders, or directions shall hereafter come unto you, from Us, or from Our Privy Council, requiring the performance of anything contrary to Our directions in Our Establishment, or these instructions, We do hereby give you authority to forbear, if you think fit, the execution thereof, until you shall first give Us information of the reasons inducing you thereunto, and therefore receive Our directions therein, and further declaration of Our pleasure touching the same.

25th.

"There having been several proclamations issued, by which all papists there were required to bring

in their arms, to be delivered into Our stores, and deposited there for Our service; you are to inform yourself what hath been done in pursuance of these proclamations, and to take care that the same be duly executed according to the intentions therein declared, so that no papist there, except such as are permitted by the capitulations granted to any town, or place, that surrendered itself, may be suffered to keep any arms or powder, without licence either from Us, or you, first had and obtained; and you are to endeavour to prevent all abuses in misconstruing the extent of those capitulations, and to restrain as much as may be such concessions of keeping arms.

26th.

"We think fit to recommend to you the settling the Militia, in all the Counties of Our said Kingdom, and you are accordingly to apply yourself with all diligence to the perfect establishment of the same, according to such rules, and in such manner as hath been hitherto observed, as far as shall be consistent with the present posture of affairs, the good of Our service, and the laws of that Kingdom.

27th.

"You shall not give directions for the reversing any outlawries; but upon application to you in the behalf of any persons, whose circumstances

may deserve Our commiseration or clemency, you are to represent their respective cases to Us, and expect Our pleasure therein.

28th.

"You are to take care, that the articles formerly granted to Galway, Limerick, or to any other place, upon their surrender to the late King William, of glorious memory, be construed according to the strict meaning and intention of them, upon all questions and doubts which may arise, without allowing any favour to the persons comprehended in them, or extending them further than in honour and justice We are obliged to do.

29th.

"Whereas by Our Commission, you are empowered to call a Parliament in that Our Kingdom, you are, nevertheless, hereby directed and required not to summon a Parliament, without Our particular direction.

"G. R."

Letter from Col. Blaquiere.

FROM Col. Blaquiere to Simon, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Leicester House, Oct. 24th*, 1772.

"My Lord,— . . . I dined with my Lord North at Kines on Thursday, where there was the most cordial enquiries after you. Most people have it that the ribbon will not be disposed of till Lord Chesterfield's death, which is hourly expected, makes another vacancy, in order that Lord Harcourt and Lord Holderness may have it together. When Fitzroy kissed hands for the 3rd Dragoons, General Conway stood by him; the King asked the latter if he would not step forward also, Mr. Conway diffidently asked for what? the King replied the Government of Jersey. The General acquiesced, and, kneeling, kissed hands. Also General Amherst has the Lord Generalcy of the ordnance. This is to shew Mr. Conway that there are officers, tho' my Lord Townshend's superiors, that are not above serving in this situation under him; which I supose he will not care two pence for.

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"I purpose kissing hands on Wednesday or Thursday, & hope to be able to pay my respects

to my Ld. Vernon's family on the 1st, in order to accompany your Lordship the day following. May I beg leave to trouble you with my respects.

"I am ever, my Lord,

"Your devoted, humble, & obliged servt,

"J. Blaquiere."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

Nov. 7th, 1772.

"My Lord,—The two king's letters for the revenue boards, after many references and consultations, many mistakes and corrections, many copyings and recopyings, are at length finished, and were yesterday signed by his Majesty. They will be sent away to Ireland this evening with some other papers, and will, I flatter myself, arrive time enough to have the great seal affixed to them before your Lordship takes possession of the Government.

"In obedience to your Lordship's commands I explained to his Majesty the cause of your delay, tho' indeed he did not require any explanation, being too well acquainted with your Lordship's zeal for his service to suppose that it could proceed from any tardiness on your part. As I shall probably have no opportunity of writing to your Lordship again before your departure, I beg leave to mention once more to your Lordship my friend and relation Captain Hamilton. If your Lordship should ever make a supernumary aide-de-camp, he will receive that mark of your favour with the utmost gratitude. His connection with the family

of the Archbishop of Dublin enabling him to live in Dublin without any expense. Notwithstanding your Lordship's kind expressions with respect to Dean Hawkins, I have not ventured as yet to give him hopes of the second Bishoprick. Your Lordship's permission to do so will put it in my power to render him & his friends extremely happy. I have nothing to add but my hearty and sincere wishes for your Lordship's success and happiness in your Government, and the assurance of my readiness to contribute to them by every means in my power.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Nov. 30th*, 1772.

"My Lord,—I hope that I may now congratulate your Excellency upon your being safely arrived in Ireland, and having enter'd upon your Government. Zealously interested as I feel myself in your Excellency's prosperity, I cannot form a better wish for you than that you may be as well pleased with your new situation as his Majesty, his Majesty's subjects in Ireland, and his servants in Great Britain will certainly be with your Excellency's administration.

* * * * * *

"I was in hopes that I should not have had any

occasion to trouble your Excellency further upon the subject of the Boards of Revenue in Ireland, but a mistake which was made on this side of the water by the clerk who was employed to copy the King's letter, and overlooked by the persons who revised it, will oblige me to send over a new King's letter, and to ask your Excellency to direct the Great Seal to be affixed to new letters patent.

* * * * * *

"Our session here has begun very quietly. The address of the House of Commons passed without the least opposition; and we were, with very little difficulty, permitted to appoint a secret committee to enquire into the present situation of the East India affairs. The policy of our adversaries is to lay by till we come to some decisive measure, and then our calm weather is to cease, and the session is to conclude in bustle and storms. The address of the House of Lords went as easily and as unanimously as ours. I have the Honour to be with

"the greatest respect, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*Dec. 2nd*, 1772.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I embarked at Holyhead on Sunday morning at about 2 o'clock, and arrived here at about 3 o'clock next morning. I determined, after the fatigue and danger of the voyage, to come directly to the Castle, without waiting for the ceremonies of a public entry, which could not well have been avoided if I had arrived at a later hour. My time has hitherto been so much taken up in Levees and in receiving addresses, that any account of the state of affairs in this kingdom from me would be very unsatisfactory and imperfect. Was I to form any conjectures from the general appearance of things, I might flatter myself more than I ought to do, for I know very well there is no great reliance on those appearances.

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"I shall avail myself as much as possible of the very kind information and of the many friendly hints which Lord Townshend's long experience in this country has enabled him to give me, and I shall esteem myself extremely happy if I can

employ them for the advancement of His Majesty's service in this kingdom. The mail is just arrived with His Majesty's most gracious speech, which I have but just had time to read, as the Packet is likely to go off directly.

"I am with greatest respect, &c.

"P.S. The yacht is ordered for Lord Townshend, who I believe intends to leave Dublin on Friday evening."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*Dec. 8th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—Contrary winds having detained Lord Townshend longer than expected, he did not embark till this morning. I waited upon him to the water-side; a squadron of horse attended us; the streets were lined with troops; and the greatest attention was paid to his Lordship; who had the satisfaction to leave this country with every mark of regard and civility the people could shew him. I own I was a little anxious to see the ceremony well over, as it leaves me more at liberty to attend to the duties of my station. When I wrote last to your Lordship I could only say that appearances were favourable. I have since had a very complaisant message from the Duke of Leicester; which I might have considered merely as a compliment to a new Lord-

Lieutenant, if the Marquis of Kildare had not attended the two first Levees, and afterwards desired leave to pay his respects to me at the play, where he stood by me the greatest part of the time.

"I have received a very polite letter from Lord Shannon, expressive of his good wishes to see his Majesty's government firmly supported, and my administration made easy and honourable; from which I should hope that such marks of favour as his Majesty may think fit hereafter to confer on his Lordship, may determine him to support the government. I saw M^r. Ponsonby to-day, who attended the Protestant dissenters when they came up with their address. He made an apology for not coming sooner, which he said was owing to his having mistaken the Levee days; but I am inclined to believe that the advances made by Lord Shannon towards the government may have determined M^r. Ponsonby to take a step which is of some consequence to him, as well as to those who are connected with him.

"As I had some reason to think that M^r. Flood would come to the Castle, I was not surprised to see him arrive there on Sunday last. He told me that he came to town on purpose to wait on me I shall do what I can to improve every favourable circumstance that the times may offer, or that chance may throw in my way. I shall give the

greatest attention to everything that passes, but I must endeavour to avoid the appearance of being over eager and anxious in closing with those who may seem well disposed to make their peace with government. I apprehend their terms will be more or less unreasonable, in proportion to their ideas of their own importance.

"I have the honour to be, &c."

Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 17th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—Viscount Townshend having lately recommended Lieutenant Parker, of the 27th Regiment of foot, to be quarter master of that regiment, the king has thought proper to suspend the commission, till it should be explained whether it was unattended with purchase. I have since received two certificates to prove that no consideration whatsoever is to be paid for the said commission. His Majesty, however, has been pleased to suspend it still further, and to defer the nomination, until you shall be apprized of all the circumstances relative thereto; that the application may afterwards come from your Excellency in the regular manner. Sir Eyre Coote represents that, as colonel, he has a right to recommend the quarter master of his own regiment; and, in consequence, recommends his relation Lieutenant Coote. I have desired Sir Eyre to make his application to your Excellency. There will then be transmitted to me, in the proper manner, the name

of the person your Excellency shall think fit to recommend.

"I am, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 17th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I enclose to your Excellency a copy of a letter I have received from Lord Bellamont; in which he requests to have leave to retire from his Majesty's service; and to resign his employment of deputy quarter master general of Ireland to Mr. Ch. Eustace, who was captain in the late 124th regiment, and is now captain, on half pay, on the Irish Establishment. I laid before the king the said letter; his Majesty has been pleased to grant his Lordship's request of retiring from his service; and to accept his resignation of deputy quarter master general. In regard to a successor to that employment, however, his Majesty has thought proper to suspend any nomination, in order that every application of that nature should come in the regular and usual channel from your Excellency. In consequence thereof, I have signified to Lord Bellamont his Majesty's pleasure, as your Excellency will observe by the enclosed copy of my answer to his Lordship. It will always be a particular satisfaction to me to convey to your Excellency such gracious marks

of the king's care and regard to those parts of your administration in Ireland, as more particularly relate to my own department[a].

"I am with the greatest truth and respect, &c."

[a] Lord Rochford was the principal Secretary of State, and would at the present day have been called Home Secretary.

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*December 26th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 17th instant; enclosing copies of the letters which have passed between your Lordship and the Earl of Bellamont, relative to his Lordship's resigning his employment of deputy quarter master general of this Kingdom.

* * * * * *

"I request that your Lordship will lay before his Majesty my most humble acknowledgments for his gracious attention to the dignity of the station of his Lieutenant of this Kingdom, in postponing the further consideration of that matter until I should have an opportunity of submitting it officially to his Majesty. For this purpose, I must request the favour of your Lordship to inform me whether Lord Bellamont is or is not to sell his Commission, and at what price? I have not received any memorial from his Lordship, as usual on such occasions, in which memorial his intentions and the terms of his resignation should be stated at large, to remain in my chief

secretary's office. Therefore, as at present instructed, I am a very incompetent judge of the propriety of the succession that is proposed. I must apprize your Lordship, that, if it be any part of his Lordship's arrangement for Captain Eustace, in whose favour his Lordship desires to resign, to sell his half pay, I shall, by no means, consent to lay before his Majesty a proposition which I have understood to be so perfectly contradictory to his regulations.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 20th*, 1772.

"MY LORD,—Soon after my arrival in this Kingdom I received a very polite letter from Lord Shannon expressive of his good wishes towards his Majesty's Government, and the ease and honor of my administration. His Lordship, some few days afterwards, came to Town, and attended my levee. In a very long conversation with me he renewed the propositions which, he informed me, he had, some months ago, laid before Lord Townshend, and which Lord Townshend had transmitted to England. The following is an exact copy of the memoranda, which, at Lord Shannon's desire, I beg leave to forward to your Lordship for his Majesty's consideration.

"1. St. Leger of Doneraile, nephew of the late Lord Doneraile, and who inherits all the estates of Doneraile, with their appurtenances, to be created Baron of Doneraile.

"2. Denham Jephson of Mallow, Esqr., to have a pension of £600 a year.

"3. Nicholas Lysaght, a gentleman of good property, who, during the last war, served in America; was at Quebec with Mr. Wolfe; taken prisoner with Mr. Murray; who purchased every rank he attained to in the army; and whose services are all well known to Lord Townshend, under whom he served; to be governor of Cork, with the rank of major.

"4. James Dennis, Esqr., his Majesty's second Serjeant at Law, to have the office of Prime Serjeant, Attorney General, or Solicitor General, whichever shall first become vacant.

"5. Richard Townshend, Esqr., Knight of the Shire for the County of Cork, to have the first commissioner's place which shall become vacant.

"6. The present Dean of Cork to be Bishop of Cork on the first opportunity.

"Before I submit any opinion of my own upon the above propositions, I must inform your Lordship that Lord Shannon, throughout the whole of his conversation with me, was extremely candid and explicit; he declared, in the warmest and fullest terms, the part he meant to take in support

of his Majesty's measures during the next session of Parliament, and his determination to exert his utmost influence in support of Government; trusting to his Majesty's goodness that his friends should be considered as opportunities might happen.

"With respect to the title of Doneraile, I am informed that, in the beginning of Lord Townshend's administration in this country, the late Mr. John St. Leger, son of a judge of that name, a member of this house of Commons, and possessed of great property in the county of Kildare, and who supported Government very steadily (even in opposition to the Duke of Leinster, who brought him into Parliament), made application to his Lordship for this title. He set forth his pretensions thereto in a very long memorial, which was transmitted to Lord Shelburne, at that time Secretary of State, to be laid before his Majesty. At the same time another memorial came in from the gentleman now in question; who claimed the title as grandson to the first Lord Doneraile; whereas Mr. John St. Leger derived only from a collateral branch. It does not appear that his Majesty's pleasure hath been signified upon either of these memorials. Mr. John St. Leger has since died, and he left two or three sons. The widow, as I am told, wrote to Lord Townshend, in the course of last summer, and signified to his Lord-

ship that, as she found there was a competition for the title of Doneraile, she should be ready to waive the claim of her children to it, provided she might be created a Peeress with some other title. This his Lordship positively refused to recommend, thinking, as I am informed, that, if the family had any legal claim to the title of Doneraile, the son, as representative of the family, and not Mrs. St. Leger, was entitled to the favour and protection of the crown. His Majesty will judge how far Mr. John St. Leger's pretensions and services stand in the way of Lord Shannon's present application. His Lordship, however, appears to me to have the success of it much at heart; and as this gentleman enjoys all the estates held by the late Lord Doneraile, his uncle, and is unexceptionable in point of family, circumstances, and character, I should humbly recommend that his Lordship may be gratified therein.

"I must, at the same time, observe to your Lordship, that, being aware of his Majesty's unwillingness to extend the peerage of this Kingdom, I engaged myself no further than to state this matter for his Majesty's consideration. If his Majesty should be graciously pleased to condescend to what is desired by his Lordship, I beg it may be understood that I by no means wish this honour should be conferred immediately. I feel sure that it will be sufficiently satisfactory to

Lord Shannon if his Majesty shall authorize me to acquaint him that, whenever any addition is made to the peerage of this Kingdom, his Lordship's application in Mr. St. Leger's favour will meet with due attention.

"With respect to Mr. Jephson's pension, Lord Shannon told me that that gentleman has two seats in parliament entirely in his own power, and expressed himself with great earnestness in his favour. I told his Lordship very candidly that I thought £400 a year ought to satisfy Mr. Jephson; and that I was apprehensive that, loaded as the establishments now are, his Majesty would not readily consent to grant a larger sum; and that I could only take upon me to state the proposition to his Majesty for his Royal consideration. Lord Shannon urged that he had committed himself so strongly with Mr. Jephson, who had been one of his most faithful adherents, that it was become a point of the utmost consequence to his credit to obtain this mark of favour for him to the amount proposed. I am satisfied, from the anxiety with which he spoke upon this occasion, that it would gratify him in the most particular manner, and I must not conceal from your Lordship that Lord Shannon declared to me very freely that he could not prevail upon Mr. Jephson to accept of a less sum.

"Mr. Lysaght's military services I am an entire

stranger to. His object is the lieutenant governorship of Cork, and Lord Shannon only desires that he may be gratified therein upon the death, removal, or promotion, of Colonel Hull the present lieutenant governor. His Lordship is satisfied as to the impropriety of the request for the brevet rank of major. That part of the proposition, his Lordship assured me, originated with the Attorney General, and was proposed by him to Lord Townshend, without his authority or any communication with him upon that point.

"I have heard from many people an exceeding good character of Mr. Serjeant Dennis, and that he has very great merit in his profession. I cannot, for my own part, see any objection to his succeeding to the office of Attorney General, in case of the death or removal of Mr. Tisdel; provided Mr. Prime Serjeant, who, from his great abilities in Parliament, will expect to be considered, should not desire to fill that employment himself; if he does so, and if government should be inclined to confer the office upon him, Lord Shannon will be satisfied if his friend, Mr. Dennis, be moved to Mr. Hutchinson's office of Prime Serjeant.

"With regard to the fifth proposition, relative to Mr. Townshend, his Lordship's object for that gentleman is already submitted and is now depending before his Majesty.

"With respect to the sixth proposition, vizt., the appointment of the present Dean of Cork to be Bishop of that See, I told his Lordship that any encouragement I could give him to hope for that mark of favour was very distant; but that his Lordship might depend upon my recommendation of that gentleman to his Majesty's favour, as soon as it was in my power to do it with propriety and consistently.

"These, my Lord, are Lord Shannon's particular points; I believe your Lordship will find them to correspond exactly with those which have already been laid before you in Lord Townshend's dispatches. His Lordship's influence in this country was much better known to Lord Townshend than it possibly can be to me, but I have no reason to doubt of its being very powerful. I, therefore, take the liberty of advising that this opportunity of bringing back his Lordship and his connections, and of securing them for the future to the service of the crown, should not, on any account, be neglected.

"I must, therefore, request that your Lordship will be pleased to lay this transaction before his Majesty, and that you will signify to me his Majesty's directions for my conduct upon the several points above submitted.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*December* 31*st*, 1772.

"MY LORD,— . . . I am informed that upon the late appointment of quarter masters to the several regiments of foot, Lord Townshend, to oblige some of the colonels, accepted of their recommendations.

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"His general rule, however, was to dispose of such appointments in a manner which, according to his judgment, would best conduce to answer the different ends of his Majesty's Service. When your Lordship considers the difficulties which this government lies under, of finding means to oblige the different interests here, and how necessary it is, upon all applications, to preserve its weight and dignity, I am persuaded you will think that Lord Townshend could not, with any degree of propriety, have waived the right in question.

"In consequence of your Lordship's answer to Sir Eyre Coote, he has enclosed to me a memorial, representing that Lieutenant Nicholas Parker has been recommended for the quarter master's commission, instead of Lieutenant Eyre Coote, whom he intended for the succession ; and, therefore, praying that I should recommend Lieutenant Eyre Coote to be quarter master in the room of Captain Parker. As I have a great regard for

Sir Eyre Coote, I should most willingly comply with this request, if it were practicable ; but as it appears to me that Lord Townshend has been perfectly regular in the course of his proceeding, I would, by no means, recommend any other name than that of the gentleman which his Lordship transmitted for this succession.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 31st*, 1772.

"My Lord,—I am this moment honored by your Excellency's two letters of the 20th of this month; and beg leave to trouble you with as full an answer to them as I am able to give before I have seen the king.

* * * * * *

"I delayed the King's letter appointing the new commission of excise for some days, that I might have an opportunity of conversing with Lord Townshend upon it, and of learning from him whether the alteration proposed was perfectly agreeable to your Excellency. The moment that I was satisfied on that point, I carried the letter to the King for his signature, and I imagine that it is, by this time, pretty forward on its way to Dublin.

"The appointment of Mr. Townshend, in the room of Sir William Osborne, will, I hope, be considered by Lord Shannon as a mark of the favorable disposition of government towards him; and will incline him to wait with patience for the

accomplishment of such other of his desires as cannot now be immediately complied with.

"The list of Lord Shannon's propositions in your Excellency's letters agrees, to the best of my recollection, with that which I received some time ago from Lord Townshend. There was afterwards, when Lord Belvidere's death was expected, mention made of the office of Muster Master General for Lord Shannon himself, and the King authorised me to permit Lord Townshend to offer the place to him; but it was then supposed that his Lordship, upon the receipt of so great a mark of favor, would have been less pressing in some of his other requests. The proposition in the list which seems to me liable to the least difficulty, is his Lordship's request in favor of Mr. Sergeant Dennis. I have no doubt but his Majesty will leave the determination of that point entirely to your Excellency; who, by being on the spot, will be best able to judge of Mr. Dennis's character, abilities, and rank at the bar, and how far his promotion will be approved in Ireland. I take it for granted that he can have no expectations of being put over the head of Mr. Hutchinson, if the latter should chuse to succeed Mr. Tisdall upon a vacancy. Whether the Solicitor-General would have any claims against Mr. Dennis, in case of a vacancy of either of the two superior law offices, and whether his claims

may merit any attention, must be best known to your Excellency; to whose decision this matter will be referred. In the mean while, I think I may assure you that you may venture to give your answer to Lord Shannon on this proposition as soon as you think proper, and in the manner that you shall think most expedient.

"The pension required by Mr. Jephson is a matter of more nicety. Nothing is more dangerous than raising the amount of salaries and pensions; and your Excellency knows that such a step will be peculiarly inconvenient in the present encumbered state of the Civil Establishment of Ireland. If your Excellency cannot beat down the rate of this pension below £600 a year, perhaps it may be possible to persuade Mr. Jephson to wait, till the establishment is relieved by the determination of some other pensions to the amount of this.

"Your Excellency has removed a most insurmountable obstacle, by persuading Lord Shannon to withdraw his request of a majority for Mr. Lysaght. The King would never have consented to it. Whether his Majesty will give him any hopes of the Lieutenant Government of Cork I will not pretend to say, as it is a military business; but I will certainly moot it to the King, and do what I can to promote your Excellency's wishes.

"The only objection to Mr. St. Leger's application is the general objection to new Irish Peerages, which I had the honor of explaining fully to your Excellency when I saw you in Downing-street. The utmost that can be done for Mr. St. Leger will be to put him upon the list of those who are to be included in the first creation, without giving him any intimation of the time when such a creation may take place. But even this is more than I can venture to say that his Majesty will consent to; and I must, in this case, answer your Excellency as you did Lord Shannon, that I can only undertake to submit it to his Majesty's consideration.

"The nomination to Bishopricks belongs so entirely to your Excellency, that your answer to Lord Shannon concerning the Dean of Cork must be considered as a final decision to that point, and I collect from your letter that Lord Shannon acquiesced in it.

"I shall have the honor of laying your Excellency's letter to-morrow before the King, and as soon as I receive his Majesty's commands will not fail to transmit them to your Excellency.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March 29th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I avail myself of the return of Mr. Waller to Ireland to write to your Excellency

upon the matters contained in your former letters to me.

* * * * * *

"The state of your revenue in Ireland appears, by the letter I lately received from your Excellency, to be very melancholy indeed; which is the more to be lamented, as a flourishing state of the hereditary revenue in Ireland is the most certain support of the authority, tranquillity, and credit, of British government in that Kingdom. It is impossible that the King's business can be carried on much longer without either a considerable diminution of expense, or increase of income, or both. Your Excellency may depend upon it that I will not trouble you with any burthens from hence that can possibly be avoided. Your predecessor, I believe, does me justice on that head, and you will have no reason to complain of me. I must, however, in the greatest confidence, apprize you of a new charge, and a heavy one, which is soon likely to fall upon your pension list. The Queen of Denmark is, in her present situation, so straitened in point of circumstances, that the King has signified to me that he intends to place her upon the Irish Establishment, and to allow her a pension of £3,000 a year. I will not, however, order the King's letter until I have heard from your Excellency upon the subject; and I will keep faithfully secret any thing which

you may think proper to write to me upon this occasion. In the mean while I will maturely consider this intended pension, which appears to me liable to other objections, as well as that great and principal one, the encumbered state of the Irish revenue.

"I submit to your Excellency whether, if you should be obliged to postpone a part of the pensions, you would not think it right to put Prince Ferdinand's two pensions upon the same list with those which are payable to the Royal family. The present delay of payment has reduced him already to such difficulties as he ought not to suffer after his eminent services to this country, and the very brilliant figure he made during the last war.

"It might perhaps be very useful to the revenue, as well as conducive to your Excellency's own ease and comfort, if you were to let it be understood that you are determined not to increase the present charge upon the civil and military lists in Ireland. The late increase of pensions and places may render it not only possible but even not difficult to adhere to such a rule.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*April 11th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I have not yet seen your Excellency's official letter concerning the intended port of Lough Swilley, but suppose that it is already at the treasury; and that the reason of my not having yet seen it must be the illness of one of the secretaries, and the absence of the other, who is gone to spend a few days in the country during the Easter recess. I own I am surprised that I have not yet received any application against establishing this new port. When the same matter was under consideration during the government of your Excellency's predecessor, the strongest remonstrances were made against it, both from the provost of Dublin College, and from the City of London, who are proprietors of a very considerable estate in the neighbourhood of Londonderry. By the silence of these parties on the present occasion, I conclude, either that this plan differs from the former, or that those who objected to the measure last year are better reconciled to it now.

"I ought, however, to mention to your Excellency, that I have a faint remembrance of a report of the commissioners of the customs in Ireland, which was not favorable to a new port at Lough Swilley; representing it as likely to increase smuggling, and to cause a useless addition to the expense of the customs. Whether such a report exists or not I cannot positively say, but I will send to town early to-morrow morning, and direct a thorough search to be made for every paper which can relate to the matter in question; and, if nothing very material appears against the proposed establishment, the King's letter shall be expedited in the course of this week. I see in so strong a light the importance of supporting your Excellency against the cabal which has discovered itself in the privy council, that the objection must be very weighty which will prevent my giving your Excellency every possible assistance in the execution of your plan.

"Mr. Montgomery, the new secretary to the board of excise in Ireland, waited some days in London, in expectation of receiving from me a letter to your Excellency. It was a time of hurry, and the letter was forgot. The fault was entirely upon myself, and I hope that neither his delay nor the want of a letter of recommendation from me may be of any prejudice to him. I wish him extremely well, and earnestly recommend him to your Excellency's protection. Altho' I should have been glad to have served him as a near relation to the Lord Advocate of Scotland, yet I assure your Excellency that my reason for preferring him to his present office was the excellent

character I heard of him in point of abilities, knowledge, and integrity.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. Your Excellency will excuse my adding a postscript in behalf of my cousin, Captain Hamilton. Your Excellency's kindness to him on any occasion will be most gratefully felt by your humble servant.

"N."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"PRIVATE.

"*April 24th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I received the honor of your Lordship's letter of the 29th past, by Mr. Waller, and thank your Lordship for the very clear and explicit manner in which you have signified to me his Majesty's pleasure concerning the arrangements for Lord Shannon's friends, to which I shall strictly adhere.

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"Your Lordship will find, by the enclosed letter from Mr. Clements, that Prince Ferdinand's pension will be immediately paid up to the same period with those of the Royal family. Mr. Clements assured me he would make the remittance this day, and I have given orders that, for the future, it shall be regularly paid with them.

"Your Lordship will have seen, by the papers that I have already sent you, the deplorable state of this kingdom; and it is with great concern that I must add that, since then, our distresses have increased to such a degree that almost an entire

stop is put to all payments whatever, except for the subsistence of the army; and, at times, it has been difficult to find money even for this purpose. I have now reason to think that the arrear upon the establishment, by Christmas next, will not fall short of £300,000. Your Lordship will, therefore, judge how ill any additional charge upon them would be received at this time.

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"I shall, therefore, most earnestly request, that the pension which your Lordship mentions as thought of for the Queen of Denmark may at least be postponed until after the next session of parliament; when, if that measure shall be determined upon, I trust his Majesty's revenues in this country may be better able to bear it. I have, at this time, in my contemplation, though not yet ripe enough to be submitted to your Lordship, several great and important matters which, I hope, will put his Majesty's revenues and government of this kingdom upon a better footing; for, as your Lordship very justly observes, in our present situation it is impossible for government to go on. When I shall have got the information which I have called for from the different public offices here, and which I may expect to receive by the end of next month, it is my intention to send over Colonel Blaquiere to lay the whole plan before your Lordship, and to satisfy you as to any particulars which it would be too tedious and troublesome to your Lordship to commit to paper.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"PRIVATE.

"*October 3rd*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger by whom your Lordship will receive this letter carries my official dispatch to the lords of the treasury for the re-uniting the boards of revenue in this kingdom, in the manner that was settled by your Lordship with Colonel Blaquiere. It has been delayed till this time that I might have an opportunity of consulting with the most confidential friends I have in this country. I find them unanimous in opinion, that it will be advisable, in order to make the most of this measure, which now seems to be received as a great grace and favour from the crown, that the composition of the new board shall be taken only from the present existing members; leaving it to some future day to make such a reform amongst them as might meet with your Lordship's approbation. It is upon this principle that Sir Francis Bernard, Mr. Bourke, and Mr. Staples, are now continued members of the board; and, as soon as the Par-

liament rises, it is my intention, in the room of Sir Francis Bernard, to bring in Mr. Langrishe, in order to make a vacancy at the barrack board for Colonel Burton. Mr. Staples may, at the same time, be removed to make way for young Mr. Ponsonby, or for any friend of the Duke of Leinster's; and Mr. Bourke remains at any time to be superannuated in case your Lordship should determine to appoint the English Commissioner you named to Colonel Blaquiere. It cannot fail striking your Lordship that this arrangement is made at an expense considerably less than the sum which was stated to you in London, and of which you approved.

"It may be necessary to apprize your Lordship that a tender of a seat at the board was made, by my direction, to Lord Lanesborough, Mr. Ponsonby, and the Duke of Leinster. It is with satisfaction I shall acknowledge to your Lordship, that I found they all declined their acceptance at this moment, though for different reasons. It has given me an opportunity of treating upon conciliating terms with these Gentlemen. Mr. Ponsonby, in particular, told Colonel Blaquiere that a seat at the board for his son, even in its present circumscribed state, was, in his eye, the most honourable distinction in the country, and an offer of it to him what he esteemed as a very particular favour. He went so far as to say that, if it had

been in his power, he would gladly have accepted of it, but that, situated as he then stood, he would, perhaps, be able to serve Government more effectually, and better to show the sense he had of the favour intended him. Lord Lanesborough does not chuse to belong to the board, divested as it is to remain of all its power and patronage. He means, however, as far as his interest goes, to support his Majesty's Government; and, although the Duke of Leinster does not chuse that any of his friends should, at this moment, accept any favours, yet am I not without hopes that his Grace may be inclined to give his support to some of the great objects we have in contemplation.

"The resistance which Mr. Hamilton made to the terms that were proposed to him at Worcester, and the exorbitancy of his demands, even to such a degree as makes it impossible for me to think of treating any more with him, will be a sore distress to my administration. I fear I am not to expect the assistance of Mr. Flood, although I can scarcely think he will be very violent in his opposition, now that he knows what was intended to be offered him.

"The Prime Serjeant is not yet returned from circuit. Mr. Malone and the Attorney General appear to be perfectly satisfied with the measures which have been adopted, and are disposed to assist in every point. With respect to the Speaker,

I fear I must expect that he will resist the scheme for limiting and restraining the bounty on corn, however well he may be disposed in other matters.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE.

"*October 21st*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—In the letter which I lately transmitted to your Lordship for re-uniting the boards of revenue, you will have observed that Mr. Richard Townshend is amongst the number of those who are to be dismissed and pensioned; which I recommended, having learned, as I had reason to think, from the best authority, that it would be highly agreeable both to him and Lord Shannon. Nor was it without the utmost surprize that I found, this day, upon talking confidentially with Lord Shannon, that the very contrary was his desire; and that a pension to Mr. Townshend, in this particular instance, would reflect, he feared, upon him and all his friends the reproach and derision of the public.

"Lord Shannon is a man of such high consideration in this country, and the support which he has already given appears to me so decisive on the fate of the King's affairs, that I cannot hesitate a moment about the part that is to be taken.

I must, therefore, after begging your Lordship a thousand pardons for giving you this increase of trouble, earnestly request that you will move his Majesty to appoint Mr. Richard Townshend to be a commissioner of the re-united board in the room of Mr. Robert Waller, and that Mr. Robert Waller may be amongst the number of those whom I recommended to be pensioned at £600 a year.

"In case your Lordship should have been prevented from expediting his Majesty's letters in this behalf, I apprehend that a simple erasure in his Majesty's presence may suffice; but, lest these two letters should have been dispatched from the Treasury, I enclose, herewith, the necessary draft of a letter for his Majesty's signing, in order that no time may be lost; and you will give me leave to press for its dispatch, with all possible speed, by the messenger whom I have sent to wait for it.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE AND SECRET.

"*October 22nd*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have been out of town these three weeks, which is the reason I have not sooner answered all your letters, but, as the Perroquet said, *Je né nai pas moins pensé.* As to your 'private' of the 3rd, Lord North was in town and has been so ever since, I could not, therefore, undertake any treasury business. As to your other letter about my dear friend Blaquiere, I have put his affair in every shape, and do not despair. I write this in a great hurry, but cannot omit telling you in the utmost confidence that all the Lords and gentlemen in opposition here are determined to go every length to mar, if possible, the absentee tax; and (but I say this in the utmost confidence) government will not support it unless the other points relative to the corn bounties and the revenue are part of the condition.

"I find there are great doubts about the possibility of collecting the tax; any satisfactory information you can give me about that I will make

a good use of, for, believe me, I have much at heart the prosperity of your administration. I profess myself your Excellency's and Blaquiere's friend, and I don't contract this debt with many. Stick to what Blaquiere fixed upon here with Lord North, and we shall go thro' it. Consider this letter, my dear Lord, as written in a hurry, but containing *multum in parvo.* I have not time to write to Blaquiere by this post, but very soon he shall hear from me. Your speech was much approved of, and, I think, with great reason.

"Believe me ever with the truest

"Esteem and Respect, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*October 27th*, 1773.

"My Lord,—. . . The house met yesterday, as usual, and your Lordship will see, by the minutes, the business that was brought before them. An amendment to the address, of the following words, 'So far as there are materials for that purpose,' was proposed by administration, which brought on a long debate, and which was, at length, carried by 88 against 52.

"I am persuaded that your Lordship will do me the justice to think that I cannot have been idle during this recess; and that my best endeavours have been exerted to dispose the minds of gentlemen towards the honorable support of his Majesty's Government. Nor have I, as yet, any reason to think, from the state of the numbers upon yesterday's division, that these pains have been thrown away. Doubtless some persons, from whom I had reason to expect support, voted against me; yet, on the other hand, there were, of the most respectable men in this Kingdom, some who took a warm and active part for administration; which, upon the whole, authorises

me to hold out to your Lordship, I think, what may be called a tolerable expectation of success; though no man alive who knows this country will venture to foretell for an hour what may possibly happen in it.

"Lord Shannon's friends were distinguished amongst the foremost of those who took part with administration.

"Your Lordship may depend on having immediate information of every thing of importance that may possibly arise; but I imagine you would scarcely wish, nor indeed would there be a possibility of entering into, a minute detail of the daily occurrences and of every thing that happens, in a country where business in the House of Commons is commonly introduced by surprise, and, of course, necessarily conducted in the most irregular and unmethodical manner.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October 29th*, 1773.

"My Lord,—The King's letters for re-uniting the boards of revenue, and pensioning the dismissed members, were signed, and upon the point of departing for Ireland, when I received your Excellency's letter with the proposed alterations. His Majesty has, in consequence, signed two other letters, amended according to your Excellency's desire; and, the messenger being to set out with them to-morrow, I think it right to take this opportunity of informing your Excellency of the effect which the expectation of the absentee tax has in this kingdom. I always apprehended that it would cause much uneasiness; but the uneasiness which it does cause has exceeded my apprehensions. The cry is universal against it. Friend and foe, those who have and those who have not estates in Ireland, join in condemning and abusing it. In short it is nearly as unpopular here as it is popular on your side of the water.

"I hear that Lord Shelburne and some others declare that a minister deserves to be impeached

who advises his Majesty to return the bill to Ireland. Lord Mansfield has told some of the cabinet, in confidence, that he thinks we are in a scrape out of which he would advise us to get as soon as possible; that the proposed tax upon the land of absentees is grounded upon a policy which has always been condemned in the privy council; that a similar act which was sent over some time ago by one of the colonies was rejected with indignation; and that if way is given to this measure we may expect proposals of the same nature from all our colonies, who will be very earnest to load with new impositions such of their countrymen as think proper to reside in Great Britain. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received upon the subject from five lords, with my answers. The answers were approved by four of the cabinet to whom they were read, and will, I hope, not be disapproved by your Excellency. My intention was to convey in a few words, as exactly as possible the substance and spirit of the message I sent to your Excellency by Mr. Blaquiere in the course of the summer.

"Notwithstanding all the clamour which is likely to be the consequence of this measure, your Excellency may depend upon me and upon the other three lords who assisted at the cabinet in August last, that we will abide by the promise

which was then made to your Excellency. But the parliament of Ireland, if they seriously wish to have the tax upon absentees confirmed by his Majesty, must consent to the other propositions which were recommended to your Excellency in the message by Mr. Blaquiere. Nothing less than their consent to the whole of your Excellency's plan can justify us in assenting to the absentee tax, or, indeed, enable us to stand the odium of so anti-British a measure. We must be able to say '*that we found Ireland* £400,000 *in debt, and running annually* £126,000 *in arrear; that a plan was sent over by the Irish Parliament which would, in all probability, provide for the debt of Ireland, and render the income of that kingdom, for the future, equal to her establishments; that the tax upon the land of absentees was so blended and connected with the rest of the plan, that, whatever we might think of the tax taken separately, we could not in the present case reject it without risking the whole, and losing an opportunity of rescuing Ireland from her present distressed situation.*'

"This must be the nature of our defence, and it will be, in my opinion, a sufficient justification. The gentlemen of Ireland must enable us to make it by adopting your Excellency's proposals. If they do not, it will be very difficult to return the bill; but, if they do, I, for one, shall be ready to meet all the noise and clamour on this side of the water; and hope to procure the return of the bill, notwithstanding the opposition it is threatened with in every stage, both before the attorney-general at the committee of council, and, by some persons, even at the Council itself in the presence of the King.

"I am sorry to learn by your Excellency's letter that you apprehend that the Speaker will be against any regulation of the premium upon corn, as that is so essential a part of your plan. Indeed, without securing the hereditary revenue from being drained by the corn bounty, all the rest of the plan will be precarious; as every addition which may accrue to the revenue by new taxes and other regulations may be swallowed up by that article alone. I do, therefore, most earnestly wish that the absentee tax may not be sent over unless the hereditary revenue is secured in this point; as no plan can be said to offer effectual relief to the government of Ireland without it.

"The person whom I intended to nominate the British commissioner of revenue is Sir John Dick. As he is abroad I have not yet been able to learn whether such an appointment will be agreeable to him. It is almost impossible to find a gentleman of great fashion and capable of business who will reside constantly in Ireland, as I intend the British commissioner shall do. Sir John is, how-

ever, an exceedingly good man of business, and of an ancient family in Scotland; a Baronet of old date; and, from what I can learn, I believe a very valuable man in all respects. I hope that the other commissioners will not deem him insufficient in point of dignity, because he has been for some years past his Majesty's consul at Leghorn.

"I am sorry to find that the prejudice against Mr. Allan is so strong. His continuance would have saved his Majesty a pension, and he has also the advantage of being a member of the Irish House of Commons. Sir Francis Barnard has been promised his *quietus* some time ago, and will not be able to attend the board on account of his health. His name may be changed to that of Sir John Dick, and such other person as shall be appointed British Commissioner, whenever your Excellency shall think it right to make the further alterations that you intend in the board.

"While I am writing to your Excellency I have received intelligence that it is reported that many principal persons in Ireland have declared against the absentee tax, and that the patriots there will not move it. If that is the case I suppose we shall hear no more of it. The castle party, I take it for granted, will not propose it as *their* measure. It cannot, with propriety, originate with the servants of the Crown. Nothing indeed but the necessity of the case can justify them in adopting it.

"Perhaps it may be of some service to your Excellency to know the report made here by the provost of the sentiments of the King's servants in Ireland. He says that your Excellency's conduct in Ireland, your politeness and affability, have given universal satisfaction, and have created in the breasts of the people there the best disposition to his Majesty's affairs; but, he adds, that the friends of the castle complain that they are not informed of the measures to be pursued in Parliament, or who is to conduct them. I surprised Mr. K——y, who gave me this intelligence, by telling him that in the course of the summer I had seen the minutes of a large meeting of the King's servants at the Castle of Dublin, wherein most of the measures were discussed which are now in agitation. Your Excellency, who knows the persons concerned, will be better able to guess what they mean by these complaints than I can; on which account I imagined that you would excuse my troubling you with this notice.

"It is almost unnecessary to add that I wish that your Excellency would not communicate this letter, or the papers contained in it, to any person except Mr. Blaquiere. I am, &c.

"P.S. I am much obliged to your Excellency for the promotion of Lieutenant Howe."

Copy of Letter.

COPY of the Letter to Lord North from the five Lords referred to in the preceding.

"My Lord,—It is publickly reported that a project has been communicated to the King's ministers for proposing in the Parliament of Ireland a tax of regulation, which is particularly and exclusively to affect the property of those of his Majesty's subjects who possess lands in that Kingdom, but whose ordinary residence is in this. It is, in the same manner, publickly understood, that this extraordinary design has been encouraged by an assurance from administration, that, if the heads of a bill proposing such a tax should be transmitted from Ireland, they would be returned with the sanction of his Majesty's privy council here, under the great seal of England.

"My Lord, we find ourselves comprehended under the description of those who are to be the objects of this unprecedented imposition. We possess considerable landed property in both Kingdoms. Our ordinary residence is in England. We have not hitherto considered such residence as an act of delinquency to be punished, or as

a political evil to be corrected, by the penal operation of a partial tax.

"We have had, many of us, our births and our earliest habits in this Kingdom; some of us have an indispensable publick duty; and all of us, where such duty does not require such restriction, have the right of free subjects of choosing our habitation in whatever part of his Majesty's dominions we shall esteem most convenient.

"We cannot hear without astonishment of a scheme, by which we are to be stigmatized, by what is in effect a fine, for our abode in this Country, the principal member of the British Empire, and the residence of our common Sovereign.

"We have ever shown the utmost readiness in contributing with the rest of our fellow subjects in any legal and equal method to the exigencies of the publick Service, and to the support of his Majesty's Government.

"We have ever borne a cordial, tho' not an exclusive, regard to the true interest of Ireland, and to all its rights and liberties; to none of which we think our residence in Great Britain to be in the least prejudicial; but rather the means, in very many cases, of affording them a timely and effectual support.

"We cannot avoid considering this scheme as in the highest degree injurious to the welfare of that Kingdom, as well as of this. Its manifest

tendency is to lessen the value of all landed property there; to put restrictions upon it unknown in any part of the British Dominions, and, as far as we can find, without parallel in any civilized country. It leads directly to a separation of these Kingdoms in interest and affection; contrary to the standing policy of our ancestors which has been at every period, and particularly at the glorious revolution, inseparably to connect them by every tie both of affection and interest.

"We apply to your Lordship in particular. This is intended as a mode of publick supply; and, as we conceive that the Treasury of Ireland, as well as that of England, is in a great measure within your Lordship's particular department, we flatter ourselves that we shall not be refused authentic information concerning a matter in which we are so nearly concerned; that, if the scheme, which we state to your Lordship, doth exist, we may be enabled to pursue every legal method of opposition to a project in every light so unjust and impolitic.

"We have the honor to be, &c.,

"DEVONSHIRE.
"ROCKINGHAM.
"BESSBOROUGH.
"MILTON.
"UPPER OSSORY.

"*October* 16*th*, 1773."

Letters from Lord North.

LORD NORTH'S answer to the Duke of Devonshire:—

"*October* 18*th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I had yesterday the honor of receiving a letter signed by your Grace, and the Lords Rockingham, Bessborough, Milton, and Upper Ossory. As it does not relate particularly to me, but concerns equally others of his Majesty's servants, I cannot, with propriety, return any answer before I have communicated the contents of it to them, which I will take the first opportunity of doing. I am persuaded that your Grace and the other Lords will excuse this unavoidable delay, and have the honor to be, &c.,

"NORTH."

Lord North's second letter to his Grace of Devonshire:—

"MY LORD,—Your Grace and the Lords Rockingham, Bessborough, Milton, and Upper Ossory, having, in your letter of the 16th, desired authentic information concerning a project of proposing to the Parliament of Ireland a tax upon the landed property of such persons whose ordinary residence

is out of that Kingdom, I will endeavour to state, in a few words, what has passed on that subject.

"In the course of the summer the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland sent over several propositions for restoring the credit, providing for the debts, and putting on a proper footing the finances of that Kingdom. He, at the same time, informed his Majesty's servants here that he had reason to believe that, among other modes of supply, there would probably be proposed a tax of the nature mentioned in your Grace's letter. The answer which was returned to his Excellency by those of his Majesty's servants to whom this communication was made was to the following effect. That if the Irish Parliament should send over to England such a plan as should appear well calculated to give effectual relief to Ireland, in its present distress, their opinion would be that it ought to be carried into execution, altho' the tax upon absentees should make a part of it. I beg leave to trouble your Grace to communicate this information to the other Lords, and have the honor to be, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October* 30*th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I just recollect a passage in the letter I wrote to your Excellency last night which,

if not explained, may lead you into a mistake. It is where I assure your Excellency that you may depend upon me and the other three lords of the cabinet who assisted at the council in August last, that we will perform our promise. It was thro' excess of caution that I mentioned only three lords and myself, from whence your Excellency may be induced to believe that some of the cabinet will oppose the return of the absentee case. This, I daresay, is not the case; on the contrary, I think I may venture to assure your Excellency that if the House of Commons in Ireland perform their part in the manner we have required, the absentee tax will be returned with the consent of the whole cabinet, as well of those who were absent from the council in August last, as of those who were present.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I need not desire your Excellency to keep this letter as secret as my last.

"As the tax upon absentees will meet with so much opposition in so many places, it must be sent over with the other taxes and regulations near the beginning of December if you expect them back by Christmas day."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*November 9th*, 1773.

"My Lord,—I received, by the messenger, the honour of your Lordship's letters of the 29th and 30th past, together with his Majesty's letters for the re-union of the boards of revenue, and for the other purposes dependent upon that arrangement. Whilst I repeat my dutiful acknowledgments to his Majesty for his very gracious attention to my representations upon this particular point, permit me to express my thanks to your Lordship for the consideration and dispatch which you have been pleased to give a measure which has diffused very general satisfaction here.

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"Also, my dear Lord, I desire your acceptance of my warmest thanks for the very candid communication you have been pleased to make of your sentiments respecting the absentee tax, and of your determination to support, in council, that measure, in case it should be carried in parliament here. The three letters which you did me the honour to enclose, while they evince the very honourable support you give to my administration in this

Kingdom, show me, at the same time, the difficulties which may follow a measure which, in its consequences, will, in some degree, affect the property of some of the most considerable men in England.

* * * * * *

"I will frankly own to your Lordship that the decided opinions of some of the wisest and most experienced men in this Kingdom, and the general wishes of the people for half a century past, added to the exigencies of government, naturally led me to press with earnestness upon your Lordship, last summer, this tax, as one of the most eligible schemes of relieving the present distresses of this Kingdom.

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"I likewise considered it as an expedient likely, in its commencement, to conciliate the body of the nation.

* * * * * *

"This, like every other mode of taxation, must naturally irritate those whose hitherto untaxed estates would principally be affected by it; and must be attended with inconveniences, which, however, are not to be mentioned in comparison to the advantages it must produce. Had these inconveniences not reached your Lordship they probably would not have been known to me, or, at least, would have expired in this country almost

unheard of. But, my Lord, the instant I saw a possibility of this scheme clashing with the interests of your administration, I determined to waive the apparent advantages, and to accommodate the statesman who had so firmly and freely contributed to every thing that could be honourable or advantageous to the government in Ireland. In consequence of that determination, we have used our industry to divert the progress of this tax for the present. We mean to allow the bill to be moved in our House of Commons by a certain wild and inconsistent gentleman who has signified his intention to bring it forward. This will be sufficient to damn the measure, were no other means employed against it. Opposition, at first startled, are, by degrees, growing alarmed at what appears to be an approach to a general land tax. As to our own people, indecisive speaking to those who are against the measure, and defiance of those who wish to extort favours, have produced a kind of suspense in their sentiments.

"The letters written by the five lords which have been sent over to Ireland, and most industriously circulated; together with the threats denounced against your Lordship; are kindling the resentments of the country against the absentees. I will, however, in pursuance of the line of policy you desire, endeavour to make those letters a means of condemning the tax in the House of

Commons. The capricious instability observable in the opinions of the people of this country will, I have little doubt, if men are left now totally to their own inclinations, cause the desire for this much sought for boon to die in a few days. If this should not be the case, a very little addition to what has been already done on our part will be required to destroy it.

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"I shall now let matters rest for the present, trusting that your Lordship will be persuaded that I have, in conformity to your wishes, taken the most effectual method to have the bill withdrawn. But, my Lord, this is a country in which every thing depends upon the caprice of the moment; and if, therefore, by any accident, in spite of all our endeavours the measure should pass the House of Commons, we will so arrange matters as to give little trouble in dealing with them on your side of the water. . . .

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November 20th*, 1773.

"My Lord,—I am indebted to your Excellency for two very obliging letters which, I assure you, gave me the greatest pleasure, as they brought the account of your triumphs in Ireland. Of late years few sessions have begun so prosperously, but I own I am rather uneasy at seeing your majority diminish as you approach the committee of supply; and I am afraid that the friends of the Castle, however well intentioned in other respects, will be a little staggered when they are called upon to grant new taxes, and to regulate the bounty upon corn. I hope, however, that they will give some relief to the distresses of their country without insisting upon the absentee tax. From your Excellency's last letters I conceive the most flattering expectations that the idea of that tax is now over; and I will freely confess to you that on this side of the water we shall think it a happy riddance. Whatever benefits Ireland might expect to derive from it, we could never have assented to it but as a measure earnestly desired by the whole people of that Kingdom,

and as a price unavoidably to be paid in order to obtain an effectual plan for the re-establishment of his Majesty's finances there. I took upon me, on Mr. Blaquiere's authority, to inform the lords of the cabinet council that it was highly probable that no sufficient plan would be sent over from Ireland without a tax upon the land of absentees; and that it was next to certain that, if the absentee tax was to fail on this side of the water, all the rest of the plan would be rejected upon its return. After having made those representations to the council your Excellency may easily suppose that I am happy to find that the absentee tax is not to be proposed or promoted by the Castle.

"My brethren in administration, who, from what I had said to them, had determined to assent to this measure from the absolute necessity of the case, and as a return for large concessions on the part of Ireland, would, I am afraid, have been surprised to see it originate or receive a very cordial support from any part of administration. But I will not trouble your Excellency any more upon this subject; it is probably now over. If your House of Commons should let it pass, as your Excellency does not intend to use any influence in support of it, I think it not improbable that it will be stopt in your privy council. Every person here from the lowest *to the very first person*

in the Kingdom will be extremely glad to hear that it has failed in Ireland. I thought it right to let you know this by a messenger, as I imagine that if the privy council should have this matter before them, and should be disposed to reject it, you might, on account of the *great opinion I allude to*, chuse to let the business take its course without exerting yourself in its favour.

"It is proper that you should be informed of the sentiments of every person of importance in England respecting so material a question as that which is before us; but, after giving you this information, it is right that I should repeat, what I have said before, that if the heads of a bill for taxing absentees comes over properly arranged, and accompanied with the other measures which were recommended to your Excellency from hence, I think myself bound in honour to use my utmost endeavours to have the bill returned. The ability, publick spirit, and resolution, with which your Excellency conducts a most arduous and important part of the publick business, makes it the duty of every servant of the crown to give you all possible support; and, let me add, the very kind and generous attention which you are so good as to show to my particular situation entitles you to every return of gratitude and assistance from me.

"All accounts from Ireland agree with your

Excellency in extolling the abilities, candour, and knowledge, with which Mr. Blaquiere has conducted the public business in the parliament of Ireland. He has not exceeded my expectation. From the opportunities I have had of conversing with him I own I should have been disappointed if he had not given eminent satisfaction. I am particularly obliged to him for the very honorable mention he made of me in his speech of the 8th of this month. If he obtains a considerable part of those measures which were recommended to his care, he will deserve greatly of both Kingdoms. Two of the most difficult points he has to carry are, as I apprehend, the regulation and limitation of the corn premiums, and the granting some duty for a long term as a security for the annuities. They are both, however, so important to the credit and revenue of Ireland that I cannot help repeating my most earnest wish that he may push them in Parliament and carry them through.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE.

"*November 22nd*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I informed your Lordship, in my letter of the 9th, that no proper management should be wanting, on my part, to prevent the absentee tax from passing the House of Commons. But, of late, I find that the sense of the generality of people upon that measure has taken such a turn that I begin to doubt whether government, with all its influence, will be able to get it rejected, without betraying a degree of inconsistency which might be very prejudicial to his Majesty's affairs. This change in the dispositions of gentlemen has been effected, as I am informed, by the industrious publication which the five lords have made of their correspondence with your Lordship upon that subject. I have had the pleasure of hearing, from all parties, that your Lordship's answer to those lords has given universal satisfaction, and that it is everywhere treated as a manly, spirited, and candid performance. The lords have rested their opposition to this measure upon a foundation which people here will not

suffer to be disputed, for the justice and equity of the tax were admitted on all hands. The supposed insidiousness of it was the object of apprehension. It was given out as covering a design on the part of English Ministry to introduce a general land tax hereafter. Upon this head the five lords have chosen to be totally silent. That suspicion, therefore, is every day dispersing more and more, and a warm inclination to the measure seems, now, to be daily gaining ground. I shall, however, observe a strict neutrality upon the occasion, leaving it entirely to the determination of the gentlemen themselves, as a great national point in which the country is most immediately concerned, and upon which, as Colonel Blaquiere very properly expressed himself, I shall follow, and not lead, the wishes of the House.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*November 23rd*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—As it is right that your Excellency should be acquainted with the sentiments of every person of weight in this Kingdom concerning the great affairs now under consideration in Ireland, I have ventured to enclose for your Excellency's perusal two extracts from a note I received to-day[a], which I communicate in the utmost confidence that your Excellency will not mention them to any other person whatsoever, and will return them to me, when you shall have read them, by the messenger.

"As this letter is merely an envelope for the enclosed paper, you will be so good as to burn it when it has done its business.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE EXTRACTS REFERRED TO.

"I cannot one instant delay communicating to you the contents of the letters transmitted from

[a] Probably from the King.

Ireland. As you will see by Mr. Blaquiere's letter to Lord Rochford that the absentee tax will probably pass, and that they do not mean to touch on the corn bounty till after Christmas, this totally changes the proposition. The absentee tax is consequently to be returned without removing what alone induces administration to support this otherwise very objectionable tax."

Some expressions follow to the same purport but stronger than the preceding, and the note concludes thus:—

"As you probably answer Lord Harcourt's letter to-night, I thought it right to let you know that they are, in Ireland, in my opinion totally defeating this measure that now seems to be meeting with friends on that side the water."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*November 23rd*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I had yesterday the honor of your Excellency's letter of the 17th of this month, and most sincerely congratulate you upon the very material question you have carried in the House of Commons for restraining the local grants. This I intended to have done by the post, but I now think it right to send a messenger,

upon reading your Excellency's and Colonel Blaquiere's dispatches to Lord Rochford, which his Majesty sent me this day from Kew. Perhaps I may be mistaken in the inference I draw from them, but it seems to me as if there was a probability of our receiving the heads of the bill for laying a tax upon absentees at once, whereas the proposal of regulating the bounty upon corn is to be put off till after Christmas. This arrangement confounds and perplexes all our plan, and will take away the principal argument and inducement of consenting, on this side of the water, to so ineligible and so anti-British a measure as a tax upon Irish absentees.

"His Majesty and his servants, when they gave your Excellency hopes that the re-union of the revenue boards and the absentee tax might be assented to, expected that the Irish parliament would, on their part, in return for those concessions, consent to regulate the bounty upon corn, and to the other propositions which were recommended to your Excellency from hence. The hereditary revenue in Ireland is so justly the first concern of the servants of the Crown, that no plan can be acceptable here which leaves it in a precarious situation; &, whilst a measure so essential to it as a new regulation and limitation of the corn bounty remains uncertain, the return of the tax upon absentees can never be justified.

"We are much disappointed here at seeing the new turn that the gentlemen of Ireland have taken upon this business. As it could never be the plan of British Government, we were convinced, when the Irish abandoned it, that we should hear no more of it; which renders the present intelligence the more disagreeable. I have still some faint hopes that, tho' it should pass your parliament, it will fail in your privy council. As to our privy council there will be a good deal of difficulty in carrying it thro' on any terms; but if it comes unaccompanied by the regulation of the corn bounty and the other expected measures, I shall think the success of it most extremely doubtful; and your Excellency will easily conceive that it must be a very serious event indeed to a first commissioner of the treasury to lose a great political question in the privy council.

"The nobility and gentry who usually reside in England and have estates in Ireland, are soon, I believe, to have a meeting on the subject of the expected tax. They have already retained M^r. Lee and M^r. Dunning to plead their cause before the privy council. The city of London are, as I understand, preparing their recorder and their other council for the same purpose; but it is not the eloquence of these learned gentlemen which I so much dread, as the universal prejudice which prevails here against the measure; and the want of

proper arguments, and sufficient inducements, to defend it, and to reconcile the minds of people to it.

"Is it necessary that the absentee tax should come over in the same bill with the old additional duties which must be returned before Christmas? If it comes separate it may be detained here till we see the intentions of the Irish parliament respecting the corn bounty; so that we may be sure of having both the tax and the regulation, or neither. Another reason for separating this tax from the old additional duties is, that the different discussions and hearings which we shall have upon it, will almost unavoidably keep it here till after the holidays.

"This hint I throw out upon the supposition that, as it is grown popular again, it may possibly pass, which, however, I most devoutly wish on all accounts may not be the case.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"MOST SECRET.

(Duplicate to Lord Rochford.)

"*November 26th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—As I imagine that your Lordship will be very impatient to hear the fate of the proposed tax upon absentees, I have dispatched this messenger to inform you that the question came on yesterday, in the committee of ways and means, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and that the debate upon it lasted till near 2 o'clock this morning.

"The wild and inconsistent gentleman, to whom I alluded in my letter of the 9th instant, opened the debate by propounding a resolution for imposing a tax, in general, upon the estates of absentees. He did not specify the particular sum to be levied, nor the length of residence which should exempt people from the tax, nor whether the impost should be applied for the support of government, or to any other purposes. He employed, moreover, reproachful epithets, expressive of the distressed and wretched state of this

country. His motion was, with very great reason, objected to as being too vague, uncertain, and improper. In the end, he was, with much difficulty, prevailed upon to withdraw it. Thereupon, Mr. Silver Oliver, one of the knights of the shire for the county of Limerick, moved the following resolution :—

"'Resolved that it is the opinion of this committee that a tax of two shillings in the pound 'be laid upon all the net rents and annual profits 'issuing out of all lands, tenements, and hereditaments in this Kingdom payable to persons who 'shall not actually reside in this Kingdom for the 'space of six months in each year, from 25th December, 1773, to 25th December, 1775, inclusive.'

"Upon this proposition the debate immediately began, and, as I am informed, was conducted with great warmth and ability, as well by those who supported, as by those who opposed. The principal speakers in support of the tax were Mr. Speaker, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Flood, Counsellor Carleton, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Brownlowe, Sir L. O'Brien, Mr. Bushe, Mr. Burke, Mr. Serjeant Dennis, Mr. Longfield, and Mr. Holmes. Against it, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Conolly, Mr. Tighe, Mr. Barry (Lord Farnham's brother), Mr. Hussey, Mr. Dennis Daly, Sir Charles Bingham, Counsellor Hamilton (Lord Donegal's member), Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Foster,

Mr. Ogle, and Mr. Talbot. Mr. Langrishe and General Cunninghame, though they seemed to support the principle of the bill, embarrassed the measure with so many difficulties about the mode of collecting, that it is hard to say, particularly of the latter, whether they were for or against it. I understand that the justice and equity of the tax were admitted on all sides, but that opposition laid their principal stress upon these points. First, that, as a variety of new taxes was to be granted for the support of government, this, in particular, would be unnecessary. Secondly, that it would be impolitic, as tending to irritate people of high rank in England against this country.

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"Finally they did, unanimously, and in the most violent manner, inveigh against the insidious and deep designs of English government to introduce, by these means, a general land tax. To this latter part Colonel Blaquiere thought it incumbent on him to reply; and his speech, as I am informed, operated to the full conviction and satisfaction of the whole House. The other two points were answered by Mr. Speaker, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Flood, and Mr. Brownlowe. They said that, if this measure should be adopted, it would be at the option of members to lessen some of those taxes to which they had already agreed in the committee of ways and means, upon the report

to the House. With regard to loss upon the sale of estates, it was stated that the effect would be to occasion owners to sell their lands in small portions to persons of moderate property in the country; and that this would produce that division of property, and that residence of the proprietors, which it ought to be the object of the legislature to encourage. The Speaker, in particular, made it appear clearly that, if this partial tax should take place, the resident gentlemen would have more reason to complain of it than the absentees; for that, upon a comparative view of the supply granted, this tax upon absentees would not be in the proportion of *one hundred and sixtieth part* of what was paid for the support of government and the protection of their property, by gentlemen who resided in the country.

"About 2 o'clock this morning the question was put whether the tax to be imposed should be one or two shillings. The Committee divided, and it was carried against one shilling by 119 to 107. Then the question was put upon the original motion made, by Mr. Oliver, for two shillings, and carried against by 120 to 106.

"And thus, this long expected measure which, for ages past, has been the constant topic of their discourse; the warmest object of their complaints and wishes; and, till within these three months past, considered as too important an acquisition

even to be hoped for by this country; has been rejected by a majority of 14. Such an instance of capriciousness and instability is perhaps hardly to be met with, and will mark to his Majesty and his ministers the tempers of the gentlemen of this country, and that wild and inconsistent conduct which every Lord Lieutenant has to encounter in a much more forcible and comprehensive manner than words can express.

"I must inform your Lordship that, at a late private meeting of the 'confidentials,' it was proposed and insisted upon that the absentee tax should precede the stamp act in the ways and means. This insidious proposition would, infallibly, have established the absentee tax in the first instance; and absolutely have defeated the stamp act, which is the great and first resource of his Majesty's Government.

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"From the moment I received your Lordship's long private letter of the 29th past, concerning the embarrassments you were under with respect to the absentee tax, it has been the constant object of my thoughts to dispose of this question in such a manner as should, at the same time, be not dishonourable to my government and convenient to your Lordship. I will take this occasion to say that if the utmost circumspection had not been had, I am convinced that, notwithstanding the

declarations of administration at the onset, the measure would have been carried in the affirmative by a majority of, at least, two to one. But the firm and honourable part which your Lordship did maintain on this point, independent of that support which I am confident you will ever feel disposed to give to every chief governor of this country, and to me in particular, called for every possible exertion at my hands; and it is with particular satisfaction that I see these endeavours crowned with a success, which I had scarcely dared to hope for.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*November 26th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your several private, secret, and confidential letters to the 18th instant have been duly received; and, tho' they have not been regularly acknowledged, I am no less sensible of your Lordship's having omitted no occasion of keeping me informed of all that has passed since the meeting of the parliament in Ireland; and I hope there is no need of my repeating to you the sincere interest I take in every thing that can contribute to the good success of your Lordship's administration.

"Your most private and confidential letter of the 9th instant, tho' not marked duplicate, appears to be addressed to Lord North as well as to myself; and, as the several important matters contained in it, concerning the operations in Parliament, have been treated from the beginning solely in your correspondence with Lord North, I will entirely refer you to what his Lordship may have

written to you on those subjects. However, I cannot avoid reminding your Lordship, confidentially, that the absentee tax was taken into consideration here as only a part of a great plan, and not intended to be put into execution by itself. If, therefore, it should not die away of itself, or that your endeavours to stop its progress should not destroy it effectually, the King's servants can never let it pass here unless it comes over accompanied with the whole intended plan; and especially with the more material part of it, the regulation of the present premium upon corn. In case, however, it should pass in Ireland without those conditions, it will be more prudent to send that tax as a separate act, and then it might be laid over till after the holidays, and not taken into consideration before we have the whole of the supplies before us.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 27th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger is, within these two hours, arrived with the honour of your Lordship's kind and most private letter of the 20th, which, at this moment, I have not time to answer.

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"Your Lordship will never be surprised, after the accounts I have repeatedly sent you of the conduct of the people of this country, at any inconsistency which might turn up in this parliament.

"Strange as it would otherwise appear, your Lordship must be patient to learn that, after the most serious and unbiassed debate that was ever heard in this House, and after a final decision had been come to upon it, last night at 10 o'clock, Mr. O'Neil, a gentleman who had been violent in his opposition to the absentee tax, got up and proposed that a re-consideration should be had upon this measure, this day at 4 o'clock, in order to give it effect; notwithstanding all that had passed.

"Where the idea originated; or whether the intention was honestly to further a scheme which now, once more, appears to be thought essentially advantageous to this country; or whether it was intended to distress your Lordship and my administration (which, in truth, I am warranted to suspect), I cannot take upon me positively to determine. Nor am I able, at present, to inform you of the course which I mean to take for the direction of my proceedings in this matter. Sufficient will it be for your Lordship to know that, in my present situation, I feel it my duty to consider, in every instance, as far as the good of his Majesty's service in this country will permit, the convenience of a person in your Lordship's position. How much more I feel myself bound by the honourable, as well as the affectionate instances which your Lordship now gives me of your support, I certainly need not, at this moment, declare.

"The re-consideration of this matter is postponed till next Monday. We have all to-morrow to make up our minds in; and your Lordship may depend that there is nothing which I will not attempt, consistently with the honour of government, after what has passed between us upon this subject, to divert the frenzy with which the mind of almost every member of the House of Commons seems at this moment to be possessed in favour of this measure. The debate to-day lasted but

a few hours. Mr. Flood was violent and able in behalf of the bill, in a degree almost surpassing every thing he had ever uttered before. It would appear as if he meant to take this occasion of utterly crushing to destruction the Duke of Leinster's party, and Mr. Ponsonby; against the latter of whom he made such a personal attack as that poor gentleman, I fear, will never recover from. Mr. Hussey made the best defence he was able; and I have the pleasure to inform your Lordship that my secretary (who, by the bye, is overwhelmed with the kind expression of your opinion upon his conduct) delivered himself upon this occasion with singular ability and candour, to the entire satisfaction of the House, and exactly in the way which your Lordship and I should have desired.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 30th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—With a satisfaction that I can ill express, I have the pleasure of informing your Lordship of our having, last night, defeated the attempt which was made to re-consider the absentee tax. This bold attack upon the administration of both countries was conducted (surprised as you may be to hear it) by his Majesty's attorney-general of this Kingdom. An event of

this high importance will, naturally, require that I should give your Lordship a very particular relation of it as soon as possibility will permit; but as we have all been up the best part of the night, it is scarce possible for me now to add more than a few words, which, I trust, will be agreeable to your Lordship and satisfactory to the King. After a most solemn debate, which lasted yesterday in the House about nine hours, upon the re-consideration of the expediency of taxing the absentees, the idea was rejected. By dexterous management, we were able to do this without dividing the House; at which we laboured with all our might, in order to save appearances in the conduct of those real and faithful friends to administration who were obliged, upon this occasion, to adopt, to a certain degree, the other side of the question.

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"I feel abundant pleasure to think that it has been in my power to settle this business. I perceived, by your Lordship's letters and anxiety, that it had become peculiarly critical and distressing to you. I cannot, however, conceal that the conduct we have had to maintain has been both arduous and difficult. Instances of any thing more arduous and difficult have perhaps never offered; but, whatever pains and anxiety it has cost me, and whatever I may have put to the risk,

I shall be more than satisfied if it profits the King's government.

"The Committee of ways and means went through all their business last night, and, as the report will be made this day, I am in hopes we shall be able to send over the money bills by Sunday next.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The committee of supply sat this day for the first time; the House is this moment up, and I enclose to your Lordship a copy of a minute of that committee, by which you will find that the sum to be granted in the money bill of this session is not to exceed the sum of £30,000, which, with £4,000 to be added thereto, as the salary to the Speaker, makes, together, £34,000, and creates a saving of the sum of upwards of £33,000. The grants in the money bill of last session exceeded £67,000. Lord Townshend found them at £119,000, and I think it was a great proof of his Lordship's good management that he was able to fight them down to £67,000 before he left the Country. I am extremely happy that my endeavours for his Majesty's service have been attended with so much success in this important matter. It was attack-

ing, in a most sensible part, the favourite jobs of individuals, which they had been long in possession of, and which they had carried at times against all the power that government could exert to prevent them. The debate upon this single point lasted near five hours. It was very ably conducted on the part of government, and opposition had summoned together all their friends upon this occasion; but as they had, very early in the evening, been defeated upon a resolution which was carried against them by 115 to 62, they were discouraged from dividing again, and gave up the point.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*December 1st*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I should not so soon have troubled your Lordship again, if a matter had not occurred last night in the House of Commons regarding his Majesty's prerogative; which, as it appeared to me to have very sufficiently vindicated the exercise of that power in the crown, I cannot help mentioning with particular satisfaction.

"Sir William Mayne informed the House that he intended to take notice of the *douceur* which

his Majesty was lately pleased to grant for the relief of the private men in his regiments of infantry and dragoons in this Kingdom, as having been placed on the establishment in violation of the privileges of Parliament, and subversive of the first principles of the constitution.

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"Colonel Blaquiere spoke upon the occasion, and said that he had always understood it to be the undoubted right and prerogative of the crown to appoint and regulate the army for the general good, in such manner as to his Majesty should seem best, and of which his Majesty alone, constitutionally, was the judge; that this was the established practice, exercised invariably by the crown, of which there were innumerable instances upon record.

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"The province of parliament, as he conceived, extended only to the consideration, examination, and, if they pleased, rejection, of any expense which such arrangements might induce.

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"This was the province of the House, which he wished never to see invaded. The other was, unquestionably, the rightful prerogative of the crown, which he hoped never to see abridged.

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"The House, as I am informed, acquiesced, and

seemed to be perfectly satisfied. As this is a language which gentlemen have not been used to in this Kingdom, and as the prerogative of the crown has, in this particular, been so far vindicated and asserted, without any material objection or resentment, I could not conceal from your Lordship the real satisfaction I felt upon this occasion.

"I kept this letter open until the House should break up this night that I might inform your Lordship what passed in the committee of ways and means. The report is entirely gone through, and instructions are given to prepare heads of bills pursuant thereto, which will be done with all possible expedition, and I now hope to be able to transmit the bills for granting the additional duties by Tuesday next, at furthest. But the stamp act, the act granting the loan duties, and the tontine bill, requiring some particular regulations which are not yet finally settled, cannot accompany the first bill, but will certainly follow in three or four days.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 6th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have the honour of enclosing, to your Lordship, a list of three bills

which were sealed this day in council, and are transmitted, by this messenger, in the usual manner, to Lord Rochford. The particulars of these being fully set forth in the letters which accompany them from the privy council, it is needless for me to take up your Lordship's time in entering into any minute detail of them. The stamp and tontine bills will follow, as I have already informed your Lordship in my letter of the 2nd instant, in a very few days ; I shall, therefore, proceed to state, in a general way, the substance of this business, which, I venture to persuade myself, will be highly agreeable to your Lordship.

"In my letter to your Lordship of the 19th November, the difference between the arrear supposed to be wanted, and that which now actually appears to be deficient, will have been very fully explained.

"It would now appear that there is an annual deficiency in the revenue of this Kingdom of the sum of £138,840 6*s*. 1½*d*., instead of £126,054 12*s*. 11*d*. as was stated in the account N°. 2, delivered to your Lordship. It was not, of course, in the nature of things possible to ascertain the precise sums until the accounts had been laid before the House.

"My great object being to put the revenues of this country upon a footing equal to the expenses of government, it was my first consideration to

estimate what might be done by regulation and reduction; which your Lordship will see, by the paper enclosed, I have stated at £50,000. This was the sum stated by my Secretary to the House as the possible saving which might be made, if parliament and administration would cordially co-operate, and go hand in hand in this great business.

"The saving stated by the re-uniting of the boards, your Lordship will please to observe, is only the actual saving at this moment computed to be made. The further economical advantage, by the non-appointment of officers, and which must have gone to a very considerable expense, had the separation of the boards been carried into full effect, does not appear. I only state the £10,000 as the actual saving computed to be now made.

"The saving in the grants in the money bill is exactly what I have stated in the paper, about £17,000.

"With regard to the other two articles, the regulation of the premiums upon the land carriage of corn, and the establishing the writ of assistants in this country, they were stated by Colonel Blaquiere, in general terms, to the House, as the means for completing the remainder of the £50,000. To have stated the matter with more precision would have betrayed the greatest indiscretion in

administration, even supposing it to have been possible to have done it with any precision at all. I cannot avoid giving it to your Lordship as my opinion, that if one or both of these regulations should take place, of which I am not without hopes, the saving upon the one, and increase upon the other, will go to an amount far more considerable than I can venture to state.

"The £50,000 thus obtained by saving, and explained, I persuade myself, to your Lordship's satisfaction, leads me, naturally, to the taxes granted to make up the sum of £138,800.

"Your Lordship will know that it must have been perfectly impossible for me to ascertain (where no estimate could be made) any thing like the precise sum that a stamp tax would produce. It was, however, necessary to state a sum to the House; and, although the £40,000 at which it is stated is merely conjectural, I must inform your Lordship that it is the general opinion, of the learned in the law in particular, that this tax may possibly produce £60,000 a year. I have seen no man who makes it less than £40,000; the sum at which I have taken it. The only article we could compute by were the newspapers; and they produce, upon estimate, £12,000 a year.

"The additional tax upon wines, putting them all upon the same footing with Spanish wines, will certainly produce £23,000.

"I think it possible that the additional duty of 6d per gallon upon brandy and geneva may not produce the whole of the amount to which, upon a fair medium calculation, it has been taken; because it must be expected that it may operate, in some degree, as a fresh incitement to smuggling; but, taken altogether, I have reason to think it may produce something, and that it certainly will not be prejudicial to the revenue. I have, therefore, included this with the rest, satisfied that it will be very agreeable to your Lordship, as it must be very grateful to the West India Merchants.

"The tax, or rather the new regulation upon fine teas, which met with your Lordship's approbation, is fully explained in the letter from the privy council, and will certainly produce not less than £5,000 a year. Cards, upon estimate, £3,600; coaches are rated at £6,000; but, by the new regulation, which will affect the old, as well as the present additional duty, it is not doubted but that a much more considerable sum will be raised.

"Your Lordship consented to lay a new tax upon teas; and I suppose that a tax upon muslin may be considered, in regard to its affecting the East India company, as one and the same thing; yet, as this measure was not expressly stated to your Lordship (the necessity for it having only lately originated), I would not allow it to make

a part of the money bill; because I shall never consent to clog that bill with any matter that may tend to distress, though in the remotest degree, your Lordship's administration, without your previous consent. Still, this is an object of the very highest moment to government here; since the bread of a great part of the manufacturing people in this metropolis is said to depend upon it. The question has already excited the most dangerous disturbances in the city, and much blood has been spilt. I have, therefore, not a doubt but that your Lordship's humanity will readily engage you to agree to this bill. I send it unconnected with the rest, in order to leave its fate entirely at your Lordship's option.

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"These several sums taken together, and amounting to £88,800, and added to the £50,000, under the head of savings, making an additional annual supply, for the use of Government, of £138,800, cover the whole of the insufficiency of the present revenue, and is all which, I apprehend, could possibly be asked.

"There appeared a general aversion in the House to create, by any new taxes, a sinking fund. The surplus of the present loan duties amounts to about £16,000. The tax of five per Cent. upon imports, or dry goods as it is otherwise called, producing about £6,000 a year, is ap-

propriated, as your Lordship will see by the bill, in aid to that fund; making, together, £22,000. The interest upon the tontine is about £16,000; so there will be a surplus of about £6,000 per annum. I had, therefore, an opportunity of yielding to the wishes of the people the tax upon tobacco, which was thought would have affected the poor, and about the produce of which, on account of the fresh encouragement to smuggling, some persons of experience in the revenue entertained the greatest doubts.

"I will not take up your Lordship's time upon the subject of the tontine, as the particulars of it are so fully explained in the bill itself. Indeed it gives me concern to have been drove to the necessity of sending you so many volumes of papers; but such a variety and so much important business have seldom been taken in hand, at the same time, in this Country. I am happy, however, to think that the most material part is disposed of; happier still to think that it is done in a manner which, when it shall be represented by your Lordship to his Majesty, will, I hope, meet with his Royal approbation, and I trust that it may, from henceforward, be unnecessary for me to trouble your Lordship with such repeated and voluminous performances.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING LETTER.

"Estimate of the produce of the new additional duties, granted by parliament this session for the support of government; and of the savings made, and proposed to be made; which together will create an annual revenue to the Crown of £138,800; exclusive of £6,000 a year, the estimated amount of five per cent. upon dry Goods appropriated in aid of the loan duties.

Stamps	£40,000
Wine	23,000
Brandy	9,700
Teas	5,000
Cards	3,600
Coaches	6,000
Muslin	1,500
	£88,800

Saved by re-uniting the Boards	£10,000	
Saved by Parliamentary Grants	17,000	
Saved upon Stationery in the House of Commons	2,000	
Expectant upon the Regulation of the Corn Premiums, and the establishing the Writ of Assistants in aid of the Officers of the Revenue, which, when obtained, may probably add a double increase of what is now stated	21,000	50,000
		£138,800

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*December 9th*, 1773.

"My Lord,—My thanks are for ever due to your Excellency for your kind attention to me and to my situation. The fluctuating opinions of the Irish Parliament kept us for some days suspended between hope and fear; but your Excellency's letter of Monday last put a joyful conclusion to all our uncertainties; and, indeed, whatever advantage the absentee tax might be expected to produce to Ireland would have been dearly purchased, if it had been carried upon a re-consideration. A second discussion in the same session of parliament of a rejected question, altho' it should be introduced in a new form, is a measure so productive of confusion and injustice, that it can hardly be justified by the importance of any proposition whatsoever. Some forms of business are essential parts of the constitution. That which would have been violated by the re-consideration of the absentee question is amongst the number, and those who have preserved it upon

this occasion have shown themselves true friends to Ireland. To be sure I am interested in the present case, but these would, I think, be my sentiments in any case whatever. I hear that the Marquis and his friends pretend to suppose that I am greatly hurt and disappointed at what has passed in Ireland. I should be glad to have it their real opinion, tho' certainly no event could have given me greater comfort than the rejection of the absentee tax.

"Your Excellency's friendship and ability have saved me from a most embarrassing situation; for tho' I should undoubtedly, at all events, have kept my promise with your Excellency, I should have met with many persons amongst his Majesty's British counsellors who would not have allowed the revenue plan in Ireland to be such as justified our assent to the absentee tax. They would have urged their objections with greater vehemence when they found that the tax came over unaccompanied by any regulation of the bounty upon corn. I found that, in fact, many of those who ought to have joined with me in supporting the measure, if it became necessary, took every opportunity of washing their hands of it, and did me the honor of throwing it wholly upon me. Your Excellency cannot, therefore, wonder that I should wish to see that end to the business, which your Excellency's able conduct has effected.

But, I assure you, I do not feel half the satisfaction at the difficulty I have escaped, as I do at the review of the great points which your Excellency has carried, as Captain Jenkinson informs me, without any expense, and even without any promise of peerage or pension. To be sure the regulation of the corn premiums would nobly crown and complete the revenue plan, and secure to the publick the enjoyment of those duties which have been granted. Altho' I hope to see that drain of the publick treasure stopt, yet all the world must confess that even without it your Excellency's campaign has been most glorious and successful. You may depend upon it that your money bill shall be returned to you with all possible dispatch. By what I read in your papers and votes I hardly think that any objection will be made to your taxes, but such as they may be, they will be easily over-ruled.

"This session will probably have put the Irish finances upon such a footing that government may, for the future, be carried on with more credit and tranquillity. The great points now to be had in view seem to be to improve the publick revenue by saving and by better management; to avail the Crown of the expired pensions by avoiding, if possible, the grant of new ones; to defend the hereditary revenue, and to prevent the board from recovering that power and patronage which was

so grossly abused before the separation of the excise from the customs. As Ireland was never in better and abler hands than at present, I am certain that these and every other great point will be attended to, and, I hope, accomplished to the honor and happiness of the two kingdoms. On my part I do assure your Excellency that I will use my utmost endeavours to prevent any new pensions being sent from hence, except one *Royal* Pensioner of whom I spoke to your Excellency in a former letter. I will do what lies in my power to ward off even that pension for some time longer; for tho', in all probability, it will not be publickly arraigned, it may give disgust to the gentlemen of Ireland, if it comes immediately after their late liberality.

"Perhaps a more proper time for it will be when some considerable pension shall fall in. If your Excellency sees a favorable opportunity for doing it, you will be so good as to mention it. It will be agreeable here; but, at the same time, there is here so much moderation, prudence, and consideration of your Excellency's situation, I am confident it will never be passed while it is likely to distress or embarrass your government. Being upon this subject, I ought to inform your Excellency that nothing can give greater satisfaction to his Majesty than the manner in which you have conducted the publick business in Ireland. He

has many times, in conversation, done justice to your Excellency's measures, by speaking of them in the highest terms of commendation.

"I am, &c."

Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE AND SECRET.

"*December 10th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You will see by my official letter of this date that your conduct is much approved of, as well as Colonel Blaquiere's; and I am sure you will believe me when I tell you that I take every advantage of it in the closet to push my friend Blaquiere's business. But there is an opposition to it, and I cannot guess from what it arises. Perhaps Lord North has not been properly applied to. Suppose your Lordship was to write a line quite private to Lord North, beseeching him, for the good of the service, to recommend to the King to give some mark of favour to Blaquiere; hinting what you know would be agreeable, and, at the same time, let me know when you have written such a letter, and I will begin my attack on Lord North. Forgive my suggesting this. We have both the same views for our common friend, and I am never for leaving any stone unturned till I hit upon the right.

"Your Excellency may depend on my giving every possible expedition to the money bills, but I hope they will be here by Tuesday, or we shall be monstrously hurried indeed. However, every precaution is already taken to expedite them in time. I wish you most cordially a continuation of success, and hope you will believe me ever, my dear Lord, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"SECRET.

"*December 10th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I did not delay a moment to lay before the King your Excellency's letters, secret and private, of the 1st instant. I have the pleasure of acquainting you of the sense his Majesty has of the new proof your Excellency has given of your zeal for the support of his dignity; and of the attention shown to him in the late debate in the House of Commons in Ireland; by asserting in so strenuous and judicious a manner the lawful prerogative of the crown on the subject of the relief granted by the King, some time ago, to the private men in the infantry and dragoons on that establishment. I am happy to see that your Excellency has reason to flatter yourself with the prospect there is of your carrying the sessions

thro' in a manner so advantageous to his Majesty's service, and so honorable to yourself.

"I am expecting, every moment, your messenger with the money bills, and you may be assured that every possible dispatch will be used in returning them to you.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE AND SECRET.

"*December 15th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am, this moment, honoured with your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant, and am happy to find that my best endeavours to promote his Majesty's service have met with his most gracious approbation; and have, at the same time, given your Lordship that satisfaction and ease, to which your uniform, firm, and manly behaviour have so justly entitled you.

"If the late re-consideration of the absentee tax had been confined to an attack against my administration, it would scarcely have justified the notice that was taken of it in my letters; but I looked upon it as the most open and daring attack, not only upon your Lordship's administration, but even upon the King's government; and, as such, I used all the means in my power to resist it. If the Marquis and his friends pretend to suppose that you are greatly hurt and disappointed at what has happened in Ireland, they ought not to be undeceived; for I may venture to assure

your Lordship, that, the more that idea prevails, the greater credit and honour will be derived from it, and the more shame and disgrace will fall to the share of others. Upon the whole, my Lord, the late attempt, which could have no other object than throwing every thing into confusion, has, in its consequences, proved a most fortunate event; as it has strengthened the hands of administration, and has afforded, at the same time, sufficient matter of caution against the dark schemes of restless and ambitious men.

"Your Lordship very justly lays the greatest stress upon the regulating and restraining the corn premiums; an evil which calls aloud for redress, but which, I am sorry to say, will not easily be found. The people of this country are, in general, so tenacious of this favourite and important object, and are so sensible of the great advantage which they gained by the ignorance and inattention of that administration which so scandalously betrayed the Crown into such a fatal concession, that I scarce find myself at liberty to flatter your Lordship even with the hope of restraining the enormity of those destructive premiums. But, however arduous and difficult the undertaking may be, it will be my duty to attempt it. I have the greatest confidence in the abilities of Mr. Blaquiere, to whom the matter will be confided in the House of Commons; and I am not ashamed to acknowledge,

that the success of my administration has hitherto been greatly owing to his zeal, diligence, and superior abilities. While I am upon this topic, your Lordship will permit me to assure you that any favour or mark of distinction conferred on Mr. Blaquiere by his Majesty, will be far more agreeable to me, and more conducive to his Majesty's service, than any favour I can receive; though no man sets a higher value on his Majesty's favours, or can retain a more grateful sense of those I have already received, than I do.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE AND SEPARATE.

"*December 15th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I did not recollect, till I had finished my other letter of this date, that possibly your Lordship had forgot that the red ribbon is the object of Mr. Blaquiere's wishes. He has it greatly at heart, and considers such a mark of distinction as the surest and best means of giving him that weight and credit in this country so essential for the carrying on of his Majesty's affairs with credit and success. I can only add that, should his Majesty graciously condescend to pay any attention to my earnest wishes and solicitations, and to confer this honourable mark of distinction on Mr. Blaquiere any time during the approaching recess, it would, I am confident, contribute more than any thing towards the success of the important business that remains to be undertaken after the holidays; I mean the regulating and restraining the corn premiums, the revenue bill, and Mr. Dyson's pension.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I think my obtaining of the red ribband for Mr. Blaquiere of such infinite moment at this time, I have dispatched this letter to your Lordship by a messenger."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 19th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have heard, within these few days, that Sir George Macartney might probably apply to your Lordship for his Majesty's leave to dispose of his pension. Should any attempt of that sort be made, I most earnestly request your Lordship to resist it, as nothing would be productive of greater mischief to this government than to open a door to that kind of traffic; which has, almost in every instance, proved of the greatest dis-service to his Majesty's affairs in this country. In obedience to his Majesty's orders, I have hitherto withstood every effort that has been made for leave to exchange or dispose of

either pension or employment; and people, though very reluctantly, have been obliged to submit to it, as a measure from which government would never depart; I thought it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of laying this matter before your Lordship, and I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*December 25th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is with particular satisfaction that I have acquainted your Lordship, in my official of this day, with my having given the Royal assent to the bills therein specified; as it has been with the utmost difficulty, and the greatest exertion of every effort I could possibly make, that I have been able to prevent the rejection of the great money bill; on account of the alteration inserted with regard to the article of the duty upon teas.

"King, the messenger, arrived here last Thursday with the tontine, stamp act, and Lord Eyre's bill. The two former were read, for the first time, yesterday; and, with the deepest concern, I am to inform your Lordship that, with the many alterations which appeared to have been made in them, it seems to be the almost universal opinion that they will both be rejected. It is impossible for

me to enter into any thing particular at this moment. Sufficient will it be for me to say that the same zealous regard for his Majesty's service which has, hitherto, directed my best endeavours to promote it, shall be the guide and only motive of my conduct upon this trying occasion, let the event be what it may. This very important business will meet with its fate on Monday, till which time the committee of comparison is adjourned. Your Lordship may depend on having the earliest notice of every thing that passes.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*December 27th*, 1773.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The House is just up, and I have only time to inform your Lordship that the two bills have been rejected with an almost unanimous voice. It was absolutely impossible to stem the torrent; it would have been madness to have attempted it. I am persuaded that any resistance on my part might have endangered the bills which will be brought in to-morrow and, it is to be hoped, carried without much opposition.

"I am unwilling to trouble your Lordship with any thing further, until I can send you a circumstantial account of every thing that has passed;

which, as I shall send it by a messenger, may probably reach your Lordship before this letter. I was unwilling, however, to suffer a post to depart without giving you some notice of this interesting and serious event. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

"*December 30th*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—The hurry and confusion which must have necessarily occurred upon a transaction of such serious importance as that which I notified to your Lordship in my letters of 25th and 27th instant, will, I am persuaded, plead with your Lordship the impossibility of dispatching sooner such a particular account of it as I could have wished, and as your Lordship must have impatiently expected.

"The House was in such a flame last Friday evening, when the tontine and stamp bills received a first reading after their return from England, that it required great management to restrain them from proceeding to acts of intemperance, and rejecting them with precipitation. It was with the utmost difficulty that Colonel Blaquiere could prevail, on Saturday, that the committee of

comparison should not make their report upon the several alterations till last Monday. I was extremely anxious to gain this little portion of time, in hopes that, short as it was, it might be employed to advantage in bringing gentlemen, if not to support the bills, at least to act with moderation and temper in their proceedings. For this purpose I did not lose a moment in sounding the dispositions of those whom we had every reason to reckon our firmest friends through the whole course of this Session. One and all exclaimed most vehemently against the alterations; which they did not scruple to style wanton, unnecessary, and unkind; and which, at all events, they were determined to oppose with all their power.

"Thereupon, I thought it my duty instantly to convene such of his Majesty's principal and confidential servants as are usually consulted upon important occasions, together with such other persons of distinction as had great weight and influence in parliament. But, before I give your Lordship an account of the opinion of this meeting, I must observe that the alterations which had been made in the great bill of supply (which received the Royal assent last Saturday), particularly regarding the teas, had inflamed the minds of gentlemen to a degree that has closely affected every thing which has since followed. It was very un-

fortunate that, before they had time to cool, the stamp and tontine bills arrived so much altered in a variety of instances, as to revive what they were pleased to call, their resentment, which manifested itself in the most determined expressions to reject the bills. I must also observe to your Lordship that if the alterations made on the other side, in the great money bill before mentioned, had been reported, the bill would have been lost. The committee appointed to compare the heads of that bill with the transmiss, were, with the utmost difficulty, prevailed upon not to make any report; and this expedient was at length submitted to; but not without the utmost exertion on my part, of every thing that was possible and in my power to be done; nor was it yielded to by gentlemen on the opposition side without very great murmuring and reluctance.

"On the arrival of the tontine and stamp bills, my chief secretary went about, as I informed your Lordship, to every member and to every person of consequence, to argue and request, to moderate and explain; and, if possible, to reconcile gentlemen to the passing those bills. His labours, however, were fruitless and ineffectual. It was the unanimous voice of our friends, as well as of gentlemen who opposed government, that the House of Commons was ill treated by these alterations. They were looked upon as an unkind

return for their strenuous and liberal efforts to support the King's establishments in a time of difficulty and distress; and a universal and determined resolution was exhibited to shew their resentment, as it was termed, by rejecting both bills.

"It was upon this disagreeable aspect that I thought it my duty to summon the meeting, on Sunday, of his Majesty's confidential servants before mentioned; in order ultimately to determine what should be most advisable to be done for his Majesty's service on this very trying occasion. I was, accordingly, attended by my Lord Primate, the Lord Chancellor, the Chief Judges of the King's Bench and Common Pleas, the Lords Drogheda, Tyrone, Roden, and Ely, Mr. Malone, Mr. Prime Serjeant, the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, and Mr. Clements. They every one of them spoke upon the occasion, and, after great deliberation, all, with two exceptions, were unanimous in the opinion that if government were able to force the bills, which, beyond a doubt, could not be done, it would be the greatest folly and temerity to attempt it; as, by inflaming the House, it would put to the utmost risk the ultimate passage of the bills, which were so highly essential to the government in whatever shape they might, hereafter, be introduced.

* * * * * *

"Upon Lord Shannon, who was ill and unable to attend the meeting, I called myself; I found that he was of the same opinion; and the Lord Chief Baron, who had signified his views from the country, was also of the same mind. I had no other course then but to give way, unless I had ordered my secretary to divide in a very small minority; to the discredit of government, and to the prejudice of its warmest friends.

"The Committee appointed to compare the bills with the transmiss made their report on Monday; and the bills were, accordingly, rejected. It would have been done unanimously; but, for the sake of preventing an entry of *nem. con.* in the journals, some few negatives were given.

"Although I can entertain no doubt of the power of altering Irish money bills in England, provided the tax is not altered, yet to obtain, and to communicate to your Lordship, the fullest information as to the exercise of this power, I have caused search to be made at the rolls in the secretary's office, and in the office of the clerk of the House of Commons. Three instances only can be found where any alterations, except of some few words in point of form and accuracy, have been made in money bills; and in two of these three instances the bills have been rejected. Gentlemen, who have been members of the House of Commons of Ireland for near half a century,

affirm that alterations so numerous and material were never before made in any bills of supply transmitted from Great Britain.

"In the debate the conduct of the members was moderate, and respectful to government. There was no attempt to advance or assert any new claim or privilege; on the contrary, the right to vary, for the purpose of explaining and enforcing, was expressly admitted; and his Majesty's ministers in England, and the administration in this country, were exculpated by every gentleman who spoke.

"After the bills were rejected, the House was informed that heads of bills for the same purposes would be brought in the next day with altered titles. They were, accordingly, introduced on Tuesday last, and, after some debate, were ordered to be committed for next day. The committal of them was violently opposed by M^r. Barry Barry, M^r. Ponsonby, and the Duke of Leinster's friends, but without effect, and both bills were this day brought up to me, in order to be transmitted in the usual form to England.

"Under all these circumstances, it is with some degree of satisfaction I reflect that no great prejudice can, I hope, arise to his Majesty's affairs by these rejections; to the stamp bill certainly none at all; and to the tontine bill I trust it will be in no great degree. I have taken care that

a further time be allowed to subscribers, and I will use every endeavour in my power to preserve this scheme from any injury to which it may be liable by this untoward event. No cause for the rejection of the tontine and stamp bills is assigned upon the votes; the bills are simply rejected according to the ordinary and constitutional method.

"The Committee who prepared the former bills as well as the heads of the bills now transmitted, have adopted, in the new bills, every alteration made in England which appeared to them to give strength and effect, without defeating the intention of the House and the design of the Law. In the light in which the House viewed the English alterations it certainly would have been impossible to have prevailed upon gentlemen to have adopted them all. Give me leave to apprize your Lordship that, soured and inflamed as the House of Commons now is, and their dissatisfaction very far from being subsided, if these bills should receive any material new alterations on your side, they will most certainly meet with the same fate with the two already rejected. I am moreover confident that there would not remain the smallest chance of my being able to obtain them again. I most earnestly request, for the sake of his Majesty's service, that these facts may be duly and maturely considered.

* * * * * *

"The House of Commons adjourned this day until Thursday the 20th of January; by which time I hope the bills will be returned to us, without any other alterations than what are merely literal and of no importance. If, upon their being duly considered on the other side, it shall be thought that any material alterations are necessary to render them more complete and effectual, I would beg leave to submit it, whether it will not be more advisable to allow us to supply such defects by new bills, or by clauses in the revenue bill to be prepared in this Kingdom and transmitted from hence, rather than by inserting them in England to occasion the loss of the bills; which, I have not the smallest doubt, will be the most certain consequence of such alteration.

"I am very sensible that, from the shortness of the time allowed for the consideration of money bills, many inconveniences must arise. Your Lordship may depend upon it that it shall be particularly attended to, and, as far as it depends upon me, be hereafter prevented.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE.

"*December* 31*st*, 1773.

"MY LORD,—I cannot let the messenger return to your Excellency without acknowledging the receipt of your obliging letters of the 15th and 19th, to which I will endeavor to answer more fully in a day or two. In the meanwhile I am much obliged to your Excellency for putting me upon my guard against Sir George Macartney's application. He has not lately spoke to me upon the subject, but I shall certainly in that, and in every other point, consider, as my first object, the ease of your Excellency's situation, and the future facility of conducting his Majesty's affairs in Ireland.

"I am much concerned to find, on reading the copy of your Excellency's letter to Lord Rochford, that the alterations made in the money bills have given such an alarm and caused so much discontent in Ireland. I could not attend the whole of the two meetings of the council when the Irish bills were under consideration; but,

while I was there, I am sure there was the greatest solicitude expressed by every body present not to do any thing that could give uneasiness to the House of Commons in Ireland; and it was, on that account, determined to leave untouched a clause in the additional duty bill by the expressions of which certain commodities, which the parliament really meant to tax, were, in fact, left free from duty. We abstained from correcting even a manifest mistake rather than give occasion to any person to say that we had laid a duty in Ireland beyond the petition of the Irish parliament.

"As to the alterations that are made, tho' they are numerous, they are either literal or absolutely necessary to carry the acts into execution. By the great money bill the commissioners of revenue in Ireland were required to produce the *original* sale books of the East India Company. The impossibility of executing this direction was evident; the council, therefore, altered it to *copies* of the sale books authorised in a certain manner. I own I am surprised that so great a stir should have been made about so proper an alteration. The principal amendment in the tontine bill was equally necessary. The clause respecting survivorship was so obscurely expressed, that the rights of the subscribers would have been always in doubt. The House of Commons will not deny

that the clause, as it is now worded, clearly conveys their meaning. There is certainly a new clause added to the stamp act. I happened to be absent when it was under consideration in council, but, upon reading it, I am convinced it is absolutely necessary for the execution of the act. I mean that clause which obliges all Judges to take notice, *ex officio*, of the King's proclamation, the stamps, &c.

"I remember some alterations in the tontine bill requisite to enable *Jews* to purchase the annuities, and to accommodate subscribers who do not reside in Ireland. The greater part of the other amendments, if I recollect, are merely literal, but necessary. This I am sure of, that there is no alteration imposing, increasing, or diminishing, any duty, or subjecting any person to a duty who was not subject to it by the original bill, or exempting any person who was. Whatever has been done, has been in order to correct some of those errors which had escaped the Parliament of Ireland; and which it was essential to correct in order to render the acts effectual. The King's right of altering money bills, as well as every other, is too clear to admit of a dispute, and too important to be given up. It surely could not have been exercised more moderately, more cautiously, more usefully, or more in conformity to the intentions of the Irish House of Commons

than in these instances. I am sorry it should appear otherwise on your side of the water. I am confident that a little recollection will set the matter in the same light as I see it in. I hope and trust, however, that if the tontine and stamp duty bills are rejected, the House of Commons will make the alterations their own, and bring in new heads of bills for the same purposes, adopting the amendments which have been sent from hence.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"*January 14th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—I am much concerned to be forced, in answering your Excellency's letter of the 30th of last month, to take notice of the very unwarrantable language held by those whom your Excellency calls your firmest friends ; and who have thought fit to stile the alterations made here to the tontine and stamp acts as wanton, unnecessary, and unkind. You must give me leave to tell your Excellency that there cannot be a greater proof of such a charge being without the least shadow of foundation, in that, full of absurdities and errors as the bills are, they are now returned with only one or two literal alterations. Had there been a distant wish here to have been unkind, the council were never furnished with so fair an opportunity as these bills afforded them. I am persuaded, therefore, your Excellency will, with your usual prudence, endeavour to extinguish a flame that can but have been kindled by groundless suspicions.

"This leads me again to repeat, what I mentioned in a former letter, that bills of this magnitude coming over so late can never have the due consideration they ought ; and yet in the place where they were framed, and, it is to be supposed, fully considered, out of 94 amendments made here in the stamp act, 91 have been adopted ; and out of 70 made in the tontine act, 9 only were rejected.

"After having written thus freely to your Excellency, I should be remiss in my duty if I did not say that the King entirely approved of your conduct in not suffering your Secretary to divide in a small minority, and that conduct is justified by the event, for now the bills are returned, and, I should hope, would meet with no further difficulties.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

January 20th, 1774.

"My Lord,—Upon the general plan of re-uniting the boards, as approved by your Lordship, a regulation in the secretary's office appeared to me particularly necessary; in consequence of which, upon giving this measure effect on the 25th of last month, I directed my secretary to signify to Mr. Skeffington Smyth, principal secretary to the revenue board, that he could not be permitted to hold that important office any longer as a sinecure; and, that if he chose to continue in it, I should expect a constant and daily attention to the duties. Upon this message, Mr. Smyth accepted the alternative given him; representing, that he had paid six thousand guineas for his employment, and that the emoluments thereof, until the separation of the boards, had never been less than £800, which he hoped would be made up to him. In my official letter to the lords of the treasury, I have recommended this gentleman for a pension of £500, and do mean, with your Lordship's approbation, to order him, upon revenue incidents, £200 more, in consideration of the very

great sum he paid, with the sanction of government itself, for that employment. By this arrangement, no additional expense will be induced upon the public; Mr. Smyth's salary will only be transferred from the revenue to the civil establishment; the fees which he now receives from his office will be paid to Mr. Hamilton, with whose character your Lordship is well acquainted; and the salary of £500 which Mr. Hamilton now receives, and £200 out of the £250 paid to him upon incidents in lieu of fees, will be transferred to Mr. Smyth. Consequently, not a sixpence additional charge will be brought upon the public, and an office which has hitherto been held as a sinecure, and for many years disposed of by public sale, will be recovered to government; and, upon the demise of Mr. Smyth, an actual saving will be made to his Majesty of £700 a year.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*February 19th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In all matters respecting Ireland it has always been my first principle to give every assistance and support to the Lord Lieutenant; and your Excellency may be assured that what I think right to give to every Lord Lieutenant will not be withheld from your Excellency, after the very able and successful manner in which you have conducted his Majesty's affairs. It is difficult, however, to engage positively to approve and support a bill of the purport of which I am not hitherto sufficiently acquainted. Your Excellency may, however, depend on the greatest willingness on this side of the water to promote every thing that is desired by the Lord Lieutenant and the parliament of Ireland, with both of whom we have the greatest reason to be pleased. The evils which the revenue daily suffers in consequence of bounties make me start at a proposition of that nature more than at any other. Such premiums often defeat all the provisions for the public service, and may consume the better

part of that supply which the liberality of Ireland has afforded to government in the course of the current session. Your Excellency may be sure that my opinion will lean towards yours, and that your proposal will be admitted if your bounty is within reasonable limits both in point of time and of sum, and if no very great objections, hitherto unforseen, arise against it.

"While I am talking of bounties, I think it necessary to state to your Excellency that by the great sums which are now granted in bounties, and others which are issued without fees to the vice-treasurers, their offices are reduced to about £1,700, or £1,800, per annum. They have applied to me to recommend a petition to your Excellency (which you either have or will soon receive), in consequence of a new expense that a regulation of this year has brought upon them. Both my regard to the present possessors, and the publick importance of keeping up these places to a competent value, induce me to be earnest in their cause, and to solicit your Excellency in their behalf.

"What your Excellency mentions respecting the tontine bill, is not, in its nature, so liable to objection as the grant of premiums, and will, I dare say, meet with no difficulty.

"His Majesty has this day signed the letter for granting £10,000 to the foundling hospital

and workhouse at Dublin. Your Excellency has a fresh claim to the thanks of his Majesty's servants, both present and future, for having obtained of the Irish House of Commons an engagement to make good the expense to the King; a practice certainly very reasonable in itself, and absolutely necessary for the preservation of the revenue of the Crown. I hope this precedent will henceforward be invariably followed.

"Tho' I am always inclined to assist Ireland in their linen trade, I am afraid I shall not be able to support the propositions which will be offered to the parliament, in the course of the present session, by the linen manufacturers of the two kingdoms. Their first request is to have 10 per cent. additional duty laid upon all foreign linens, not to be drawn back upon exportation; and to take off all the drawbacks upon printed foreign linens when re-exported. Your Excellency must see immediately the very extensive consequences of such a measure, and the alarm it must necessarily cause in this Kingdom. Indeed I never heard a commercial proposition made in parliament big with more danger, and I have no notion that it can possibly find its way thro' the two Houses. Perhaps the linen manufacturers may hit upon some other request less exceptionable. In the mean time, we have heard with pleasure that this manufacture is reviving again

in Ireland, and I hope that the report will be soon confirmed.

"Since I wrote to your Excellency concerning Sir George Macartney, he has been with me, and has made me the request against which your Excellency put me on my guard. His desire is to be eligible in parliament, from which his pension excludes him. Finding that I objected to a change of names, he proposed that he should be appointed constable of Tuam, during pleasure, and have his pension annexed to it as a salary. I do not much approve of creating a new office, and absolutely refused to consent to any thing till you had been previously informed of it. If your Excellency should have any objection to his request you will be so good as to tell me freely. I have given Sir George no hopes, and I can, at any time, repeat my objection to the creation of a new office without mentioning you. As the general election approaches he will be, with reason, more impatient to be freed from his present uncomfortable situation.

"I was happy at seeing the stamp and tontine bills returned so soon to England. Your Excellency might perceive that the two alterations made here were as small and immaterial as possible; and I believe I can venture to assure your Excellency that, in the former alterations, there was not the least intention to cavil or dispute with the

parliament of Ireland. We cautiously avoided any amendment by which we might be misconstrued to have imposed, increased, or diminished, or altered any tax; and the reason of a greater number of amendments this year than formerly, was, that in two bills of a nature entirely new, more errors, as might be expected, were found than there used to be in bills which had been long ago settled and digested, and which were only repeated from two years to two years. Mistakes in revenue bills in this country are of great importance, and we apprehended that several of those which were in the two original bills from Ireland would be of essential prejudice to the execution of the acts. This affair is, however, entirely over, and with it, I hope, all resentment on your side of the water against his Majesty's servants. On our side, you may depend upon it that we reflect with no other sentiments than those of approbation and satisfaction on the wise, generous, good humoured, and publick spirited conduct of the House of Commons of Ireland.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I was, some time ago, applied to by the gentlemen concerned in the Lagan Navigation. They wish to have their local duties granted for a longer term than two years, in order to be able to borrow money upon them; but they apprehend that there is an order from hence to the government of Ireland not to consent to any term for local duties while the publick duties are granted only from two years to two years. Your Excellency knows that my opinion is that grants of money upon which a loan is to be negotiated ought always to be made for a term of years; and, therefore, I can have no objection to this application. Indeed I should rather wish to see a precedent of such a grant in Ireland. Charges upon the publick revenue, for which no special fund is provided, ought not to be laid for a longer term than the publick duties are provided for; but I think the case is different where a local advantage is secured upon a local duty, and the state is not made liable to any expense. Your Excellency cannot act better, in the case of the Lagan Navigation, as in every other, than by your own discretion; to that I willingly leave the business. If it is convenient to your Excellency to quote resolutions of government to the contrary, you shall not be disavowed, but, if you think it right to grant the request, the measure will not meet with disapprobation from me.

"Before I seal my letter I beg leave to enclose one which M^r. Robinson has just received from M^r. Stephenson, a very considerable gentleman in the city, a most worthy man, and a staunch and disinterested friend in parliament. His nephew, Captain Gaull, being senior captain in his

regiment, as well as an officer of merit, his request does not appear unreasonable, and I can assure your Excellency that your compliance therewith will greatly oblige me, and be of service to his Majesty's affairs in parliament."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

"*March 6th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—When the amended tontine bill was in its progress through the House of Commons, it was one constant cause of contention that it was a bill of supply. This was as constantly resisted by administration, and it was retorted that, in the general sense of the House, it was a bill of regulation only; and that this principle had been established upon several divisions by a large majority, wherein this point was, in effect the implied, though not the stated, question. It was with much surprise, therefore, that the speaker was heard to declare from the chair last Wednesday, after the bill had been passed in form in the House of Commons and ordered to be sent up to the Lords, that he should expect to have it returned from that House to the Commons as a bill of supply, for which his Majesty was to return his thanks.

"This declaration was made in a very thin House, immediately on the speaker taking the

chair, and in the absence of my secretary. Nothing further was said upon it; but it appeared to me to be a matter of so much importance, that I, the next day, convened a meeting of the confidential servants, at which were present the Primate, the Chancellor, the Chief Judges of Common Pleas and Exchequer, Mr. Malone, the Prime Serjeant, and the Attorney-General. The speaker was summoned, but he excused himself to my secretary, upon a point of delicacy to himself, as his conduct was to be the subject of discussion.

* * * * * *

"The confidentials, before mentioned, were unanimously of opinion that this amended bill was a bill of regulation only, and ought to be passed as such; that it was not a money bill; and that, in its passage through the House of Lords, and in receiving the Royal assent, it was to be considered and taken as a common ordinary bill.

"In the House of Lords the Duke of Leinster, and the Lords Charlemont, Bangor, Irnham, Mountmorris, and Meath, affected, amongst other arguments against the bill, to put the same construction upon it as the speaker had done. The House divided 32 to 6, and yesterday the usual message was sent from the Lords to the Commons that they had agreed to the bill without any amendment.

"Upon receiving this message a debate ensued

upon the declaration which the Speaker had before made from the chair; which lasted till past 10 at night. On the part of government, it was very strenuously argued that it was no money bill; that it had not gone through the usual forms in the committee of supply and ways and means; and that it had been considered throughout in no other light than as a bill of regulation; and, finally, that it did not grant one additional shilling of supply to the Crown. The contrary doctrine was very tenaciously maintained by opposition; they insisted that as a portion of a fund (which, in the original bill, had been set apart to be disposed of at the discretion of parliament) was to be applied for the discharge of certain new expenses to be induced by this bill, it could not be considered in any other light than as a bill of supply to his Majesty; and they moved for a conference with the lords thereupon.

"When it was conceived by the House that the debate was over, the Speaker stood up and asked whether any gentleman had any thing further to say upon the subject; and, there being a general silence, he then said that he persevered in the declaration he had previously made from the chair; and that he could not consider the bill in any other light than that of a bill of supply; for it had been allowed on all hands that without this amended bill the former one could not receive

effect. He was, however, cautious enough to say that he did not deliver this as a point of order or privilege, although he conceived they were both materially involved in it, but he gave it as the opinion of a man who valued, beyond his life, the rectitude of his conduct, and the privileges of the House. He owned he might be even prejudiced in the cause, as he revered their privileges so highly; but, upon the most solemn deliberation, this was the result of his mind. He concluded with a most pathetic exhortation to the House to support their privileges and their rights, and to deliver them down to posterity pure and inviolate.

* * * * * *

"The Speaker's language made such an impression upon the House (which has always been ready to fire in matters of privilege, to which their attention had now been industriously misled), that appearances were strong against us; and, when the Speaker had finished his discourse, our friends hung their heads. My secretary then arose. There was a good deal of murmuring for some minutes. The House seemed disinclined to hear any answer to their Speaker. However, Colonel Blaquiere saw the necessity of stepping forth on this very critical occasion, when the very existence of Government was at stake; he, therefore, persisted, and succeeded so well in his speech, that, contrary to the expectation of gentlemen, we

carried the question against the Speaker's declaration, and divided the House 100 to 63.

"Your Lordship will more easily conceive than I can express the confusion and embarrassment which would have ensued to his Majesty's affairs in this Kingdom, if this most important question had not been thus defeated, as it is universally acknowledged, by the uncommon presence of mind and abilities which my secretary exerted on that most trying occasion.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

"*March 6th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship has been already informed of our success in carrying the important clauses in the revenue bill, respecting the legalizing the appointments of the revenue officers; the vesting the appointments of all those officers, for the future, in the Lord Lieutenant; and the writ of assistants. I have, therefore, no occasion to detain your Lordship upon those particulars, at present; but, as your Lordship will find two clauses in that bill which affect his Majesty's hereditary revenue, I think it incumbent

on me to explain, in this letter, upon what grounds they have been adopted.

"By one of those clauses, no duty is to be paid after the 24th of June next for or on account of any juniper berries, or any oil extracted from juniper berries, imported into this Kingdom.

"This duty constituted part of his Majesty's hereditary revenue; but it appeared, upon inquiry before the House of Commons, that no juniper berries had been imported for upwards of fourteen years; and it was alledged that the relinquishment of the duty would very probably encourage an importation of them, and induce the distillers here to set up a distillery of geneva. This, in the opinion of people experienced in the distilling business, would produce a considerable revenue to the crown; at any rate, it was an experiment worth trying, as it could be attended with no detriment, and might prove beneficial to the country.

"By the other clause, after 24th June next, where any person shall import crude brimstone or saltpetre, and use the same in extracting therefrom oil of vitriol or *aqua fortis* for the use of the linen manufacture; such person shall be repaid all such duties as have been paid by him on the importation thereof, on his making it appear by *affidavit* that the same had been made use of, sold, or disposed of, for the use of that manufacture.

"This clause was received with the general approbation of the gentlemen of the House of Commons, who were very earnest that every encouragement should be given to this most important branch of their trade; and especially at this juncture, when it stands so much in need of the support and protection of government. For these reasons I hope no objection will be made to it on your side; especially as I am informed that, upon the strictest computation, it will cause a loss to the crown of about £200 a year, and no more.

* * * * * *

"With regard to the bill for the more effectual proceeding against persons standing mute on their arraignments, I shall only repeat what I have said in my public letter, that those learned in the law in this Kingdom think it a very proper one.

"As to the *habeas corpus* bill; I have been informed that bills for the like purpose have been frequently transmitted from hence, but have never been returned. The enclosed is a copy of a paper which was prepared some years since by Mr. Justice Robinson, one of the ablest Judges of this Kingdom. He was desired by the then government to give his sentiments upon a bill of this nature. The paper contains, in my mind, the most powerful objections to such an innovation; and no reasons have been since offered which can induce me to think that the present bill is entitled

to be considered in a different light from those which have been rejected upon former occasions.

"I cannot conclude without informing your Lordship that the utmost care and attention have been used, not only in the original framing of the revenue bill, but also in examining, comparing, and correcting it of all mistakes. It was very warmly opposed in every stage of its progress through the House of Commons; and I have no doubt it will undergo the severest scrutiny, and receive every opposition that can be given to it on its return from England. Give me leave, therefore, to express my most earnest wishes that, if possible, it may be returned to us unaltered; or, at least, that the alterations may not be material; for, in the present disposition and temper of the House, any essential alteration will raise such a flame, and be received with so much ill humour, as will probably occasion the loss of the bill.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER REFERRED TO ON THE *Habeas Corpus*.

"The *habeas corpus* act is unnecessary for Ireland, because, for the cases which fall within the reason of it, the Court of King's Bench here has always looked upon the English act as a good guide for their direction, though not a declaratory or a binding law. And this is all which the circumstances of this country can admit of: for making it a binding Statute might interfere with the English Statute of 35th Hen. 8, for trial of foreign treasons; a power which is essential in the very idea of relation betwixt a mother country and her dependants; and it is a most absurd solecism in politics, to think of making the constitutions of colonies the same with that of the mother country.

"2dly. The papists of Ireland are four, if not five, to one of the inhabitants. These must be either admitted to the benefit of this law, or excluded from it; and then the dilemma stands thus: if they are admitted, any commotion may be of the utmost danger; if they are excluded, it will be invidious to deprive four fifths of the people of the constitutional right of subjects (as the *habeas corpus* act will be then esteemed), and it will be called an unprovoked throwing them out of the public protection.

"The only expedient will be a power of suspension somewhere. In England this is conveniently done by Parliament which meets every year. Here we meet but once in two years, and, therefore, it must be vested in government. What distress that may be to government, either by provoking the papists against them on the one hand by suspending it, or the Protestants on the other hand by not suspending it, is matter for consideration; but it seems a most embarrassing dilemma.

"They have been attempting this bill in Ireland for many years, and it has often been transmitted to England, where it was again and again considered, and at length, it was said, orders were sent from thence to transmit it no more. In truth, it seems irreconcilable to any idea of dependency, and especially as there is a sea betwixt us and the mother country.

"N.B. See Pryme on the 4th instant, page 282, at the bottom; where, amongst the statutes of Kilkenny, that provision against trying in England for offences in Ireland is passed with an *express exception* of the case of treason, so that the English Statute of 35th Hen. 8, so far as Ireland is affected, is founded in the original constitution of this country.

"Great questions may arise upon the interpretation of the 'subsistence of actual invasion or rebellion,' inserted in the present bill. It was found necessary in King William's time to ascertain, by act of parliament, the day when the rebellion of 1688 ended."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"PRIVATE.

"*March 6th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—During the time the reconsideration of the absentee tax was in agitation

here, the Duke of Leinster, who was very uneasy lest government should take a strong part in support of it, came to me at the Castle and delivered to me the enclosed paper, assuring me, at the same time, that he was disposed to support my administration in every thing that did not tend to the prejudice of this country. I told his Grace, that, with respect to the absentee tax, as it had been rejected by the House of Commons when government stood neutral, I certainly should be far from giving it any support when the ground was so much changed, without express permission from his Majesty or his ministers. That, with respect to the measures of my administration, I could give him the most positive assurance that it should be my constant study and endeavour to serve this country, and that no consideration whatever should induce me to propose or countenance any matters that might be injurious to it. Finally, that I wished for his Grace's support no longer than my public conduct should entitle me to it. Thus this conference ended with mutual professions of regard and esteem.

"I very soon, however, found that this declaration on the part of his Grace made very little alteration in the conduct of his friends; who, although they did not so constantly attend, were as much in opposition as ever. I will confess to your Lordship that this seeming duplicity, if I

could have prevailed upon myself to have admitted his Grace to any share of my confidence, would have been sufficient to have discouraged me from it. I can say, with very great truth, that I neglected no opportunity of shewing him every other mark of my attention; and that my behaviour to his friends indicated no kind of resentment, though I thought myself ill-treated by them. Notwithstanding all this, his Grace's opposition to every important measure of government increased. His friends were violent on the revenue bill, and, on the 28th of last month, he surprised me with the letter of that date which I herewith enclose, marked N°. 1; to which I immediately returned the enclosed answer, marked N°. 2; and, on the day following, I received from his Grace the enclosed, N°. 3.

"As his Grace has made frequent mention of Colonel Blaquiere in these letters, I was very particular in desiring the Colonel to explain to me what had, at any time, passed between them, upon any matters that could possibly have given his Grace offence. I not only received the most entire and perfect satisfaction from him, but many persons of the first distinction in the House of Commons have assured me of the following facts. Mr. Hussey, having dropt something which indirectly implied a disapprobation of the Colonel's proceedings, and being immediately called upon

to explain it, did, that day in the House, declare that he entirely acquitted Colonel Blaquiere, and never meant to charge him with any inconsistency respecting the amendment which his Grace is pleased to fix on Colonel Blaquiere. Mr. Scott, council to the revenue board, of whose zeal for his Majesty's service I cannot say too much, having been told by me of the Duke's assertion about Colonel Blaquiere, has sent me the enclosed letter, marked N°. 4, to which I beg leave to refer as the fair account of what did pass.

"His Grace's declaration of hostilities is no secret; but I have not found that the manner in which he has proceeded has gained him any credit, or is likely to do my administration any harm.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER FIRST REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING LETTER, WHICH THE DUKE DELIVERED TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT.

"THE Duke of Leinster being apprehensive that administration has often been obliged to combat the force of indiscriminate opposition, by loading the country with new expenses, in order to enable them to carry on the ordinary and most necessary business of government; and being willing, as far as in him lies, to prevent

their being, hereafter, under the necessity of adopting such measures, equally disgraceful to government and burthensome to the people; the Duke having, besides, the highest personal respect for Lord Harcourt, and the best opinion of his intentions towards this country, is disposed to give his Excellency every support that shall be consistent with the real interests of Ireland.

"The principal measures that his Grace disapproved of in the present scheme of administration have been already decided on; and, *if they are not again to be drawn into controversy*, the Duke hopes that there will be no more occasion for a difference in opinion. *In that case* the Duke will give his support against any party attack that may be made on his Excellency's administration; keeping himself perfectly at large to oppose any measure that he cannot reconcile to his opinion; but, at the same time, sincerely hoping that the occasion for such an opposition may not arise."

COPY OF HIS GRACE'S LETTER REFERRED TO, NO. 1.

"MY LORD,—I think it proper, after the communication I had with your Lordship, to acquaint your Lordship that I mean to give as strong an opposition as in my power to the tontine bill.

Now, my Lord, I must beg leave to mention to your Lordship that, after the treatment I met with from your Lordship's secretary, Colonel Blaquiere, I must declare that I do not mean to have any political intercourse at the Castle during your Lordship's Administration, but, as Lord Harcourt, shall pay your Lordship every compliment due to your Lordship's private situation and character.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

"LEINSTER."

COPY OF MY LORD LIEUTENANT'S ANSWER, NO. 2.

"MY LORD,—Your Grace's letter has given me very great uneasiness; because, however concerned I may be to differ with your Grace at any time in politics, you may be assured that it must always be the furthest from my thoughts to give you the least reason to complain of any improper treatment, either from me or any body belonging to me. I was so little acquainted with any thing that had passed between your Grace and Colonel Blaquiere that could have given you offence, that I was willing to speak to the Colonel before I answered your letter; in order to know whether he recollected any thing by which he might have given you cause to complain of his behaviour towards your Grace. But, so far from being able

to throw any light upon this affair, he is still, if possible, more at a loss than I am to form the least guess as to the cause of your complaint.

"Notwithstanding you seem determined to give the strongest opposition in your power to the tontine bill, and every other measure of my administration, I shall never be wanting in that proper regard which is due to your Grace's person and family, and am,

"My Lord,

"Your Grace's most humble and

"Obedient Servant,

"HARCOURT.

"*Dublin Castle, February 28th*, 1774."

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER'S REPLY REFERRED TO, NO. 3.

"MY LORD,—As your Lordship seems to be at a loss about the cause of my letter of yesterday, I shall beg leave to explain myself more fully upon this subject. As I apprehend that my declaration to your Lordship had been misunderstood, and think myself ill used in some instances in consequence of this, I beg leave further to acquit myself of any charge of inconsistency in my conduct. When I waited on your Lordship it was from motives of personal regard and respect for your Lordship as representative of Majesty, and with a wish to support the dignity of the

Crown, consistent with the public welfare. Colonel Blaquiere has a copy of my words to which I beg leave to refer. Those that were not in writing were few. Your Lordship may please to recollect them. They were as follows. *I do not expect to be a ruler or adviser, though my rank in life does not prohibit me from either, I might say entitles me, yet my age forbids my claiming that right at present. I shall, however, expect to be informed of intended measures.* This attention I expected, though it did not please your Excellency to grant it me.

"Of this neglect I have a right to complain, as it has reduced me to the disagreeable necessity of opposing your Excellency's measures, without giving you previous notice of my intentions; which, otherwise, I should have thought myself bound to do. The tontine bill was one instance of this; but, as to the revenue bill, I apprehend your Excellency will join in thinking I was still worse used; for I had not only no previous intimation given me, but, when my friend undertook a mediating part, Colonel Blaquiere, as ostensible minister of the House of Commons, told me in the presence of some other gentlemen that Mr. Hussey's amendment was adopted and would be received. In consequence of this declaration being echoed through the House, several members retired with me in confidence; when, to my great

surprise, I learned, next day, that Mr. Hussey's motion had been opposed by your Lordship's secretary and friends; and that Mr. Hussey could not even prevail so far as to have the matter deferred for a day, for a fuller House. You know, my Lord, I neither asked nor expected favours, and was ready even to injure myself in some degree to support your Excellency's administration; yet, notwithstanding this, I have not been treated as an independent but as a humble dependent upon the Crown. Such treatment I considered as a breach of our compact, and, therefore, I wrote to your Excellency.

"Before I conclude it may be necessary, in order to account for my opposition to the stamp act, to inform your Excellency that, when in the House of Commons, I had pledged myself to the public to oppose it; and was, therefore, bound in honour to act as I did. I still, even then, cautiously avoided any personal disrespect to your Lordship. I, perhaps, ought to have communicated to your Excellency my intentions on that head (as I acknowledge no other minister); but as the measure was in agitation previous to my declaration, I did not think it necessary.

"I am, my Lord,

"Your Excellency's obedient Servant,

"LEINSTER.

"*Leinster House, March 1st*, 1774."

COPY OF COUNCILLOR SCOTT'S LETTER TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT, NO. 4.

"MY LORD,—Your Excellency having expressed a desire to know the particulars of a transaction which passed in the House of Commons, relative to the revenue bill, and which his Grace of Leinster has made the ground of complaint against administration, I feel it my duty to state what passed upon that occasion; particularly so, as I was present, and as that bill was especially committed to my care as Counsel to the Commissioners of the revenue. I should mention that six months before the bill came into the House of Commons, it was universally known that the revenues of this country had, for want of the assistance of the military, been very ill collected; and that it was intended to introduce the writ of assistants made use of in England, whenever the revenue bill should be prepared. His Grace had, therefore, sufficient time, had that been a favourite of his, to suggest any clause or idea that he thought could qualify or improve the exercise of that writ in the collection of our revenues.

"A month, at least, before the heads of that bill were brought into the House of Commons, copies of the draft were laid before no less than six of his Majesty's servants; and, when they had

digested it, above ten copies more were circulated among persons who wished to make any alterations, or give it any opposition. In the Committee the clause for assistance was warmly debated, and a friend of the Duke's then, for the first time, proposed a clause by way of amendment, which, however, was so imperfect and indigested that it was rejected even without a question. Several alterations were made in the Committee by persons who usually oppose, as well as those who generally assist, administration. One was made by a friend of the Duke's, relative to the appointment of officers; so that his Grace had every opportunity to oppose or amend every paragraph of this Law. He could not, however, be ignorant that it was to make one of the most considerable acquisitions and ornaments of your Excellency's administration this session.

"The day upon which the bill was reported to the House from the Committee, a friend of the Duke's introduced a long indigested, intechnical, clause; tending, as he stated, to prevent the abuse of the writ of assistants. The secretary, Mr. Blaquiere, though it was introduced unusually late in the progress of the bill, did, nevertheless, give it the kindest attention; wishing, in a matter the success of which was so important, to comply and accommodate as far as possible. The gentleman who introduced the clause declared that he would,

at all events, oppose the bill; yet, so far as any part of the clause was tolerably correct and admissible, the secretary gave it his countenance and adoption. He moreover corrected, regulated, and amended, many parts of it, where he thought the ideas useful or just. Finding the whole clause unwieldy, and that it required consideration, he postponed it, together with the clause for limiting the duration of the bill to two years. Administration also insisted upon the usual extension, by adding these words, *and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament.* These two clauses, therefore, were postponed and reserved for debate, so that every gentleman who intended to oppose was thoroughly aware of the secretary's intentions. When the other parts were gone through, the secretary objected to these words at the end of the clause, introduced to restrain the operation of the writ of assistants. *Before any assistance can be had the officer applying shall obtain a warrant from a superior officer of a certain class, setting forth the particular causes and purposes of the application.*

"The secretary reasoned thus; this will defeat the whole purposes of the writ, and, instead of being a legal protection to the revenue officer, will be a legal snare for litigation. It will retard what should be expeditious; proclaim what should be secret; embarrass what should be clear. His

Majesty's Council were appealed to; they were uniformly of this opinion.

"The secretary found it also inexpedient to comply, in a case where no vote could be gained by it. The gentlemen who supported the new clause were opposed to the whole bill; their intentions appearing clearly to be to have the merit and popularity of the clause if it should be adopted; to weaken or make the Writ of assistants nugatory; and still to continue to oppose the whole bill.

"It was proposed, by the secretary, to adopt the clause as a useful regulation, omitting those exceptionable words. No; the whole must be taken, or none. Upon this difference of opinion a warm debate arose, in which one of his Grace's friends hinted that the secretary had given reason to gentlemen in opposition to think that he would concur in the clause, and that, upon that expectation, many had left the House; to which he replied by shewing his consistency through every part, and by appealing to the different amendments he had made. The gentlemen's presence and opposition disproved the insinuation of their having left the House. He was answered by one of his Grace's friends, who, while he scrupled not to avow the real intentions of the clause, and seemed mortified at his disappointment, acquitted the secretary of any inconsistency of conduct in

handsome terms of acknowledgment of his propriety and candour. The secretary next had a clause prepared by the Prime Serjeant, in which he adopted every thing that was thought eligible in the rejected clause, and it passed without any debate, or, I believe, opposition.

"This is the whole of the transaction, which, above a fortnight after, is stated by his Grace in two letters to your Excellency very curious in their kind, as a ground of complaint and reason sufficient to disclaim any communication or connection with the Castle. I shall not presume to reason upon the propriety of his Grace's menaces of future hostility, or upon the probable effects that a peevish and capricious opposition on his part may have upon your Excellency's future administration; but this I can, with boldness and truth, affirm, that, in the transaction alluded to, his Grace had every mark of prudent compliance and reasonable concession paid to his friends and their opinions, and that if the secretary had acted *further* in compliance with them, he would have given up the title which that bill has given him to his Majesty's favour, your Excellency's approbation, and his own consciousness of having done right upon a very important part of the business of this session. Your Excellency will naturally connect the time and manner of his Grace's complaint with what has since happened in the House

of Lords, and with the acrimony that he has expressed himself with upon the success of your Excellency's administration; and, if any part of that success has arisen from the fidelity and abilities of the person supposed to be most in your Excellency's confidence, that will sufficiently account for, though not justify, his Grace's displeasure against your Excellency's secretary.

"I have nothing further to add to this tiresome detail but to request your Excellency's forgiveness of its length, and to believe it arises from the warmest zeal for the success of your Excellency's administration; from an earnest desire to establish what I know to be true; and from a resolution to oppose and contradict an accusation which I feel to have been unjust.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March* 31*st*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The King has allowed me, in this private letter, to tell you what you will soon be made acquainted with officially, viz^{t}. that his Majesty intends General Elliot to be commander in chief in Ireland; and the King was graciously pleased to say that one great reason for his preferring General Elliot was, that he had some reason to think he would be particularly agreeable to your Excellency. We are adjourned for the holidays, and I am just going out of town, and will not therefore take up any more of your Lordship's time, but I cannot finish this without giving myself the pleasure to tell you that I have great reason to believe every difficulty is conquered with regard to our friend Blaquiere's pursuit.

"I ever am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"PRIVATE.

"*May 25th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I received by Toole, the messenger, the honour of your private letter of the 14th instant. Suffer me once more to offer my warmest thanks to your Lordship for the kind and patient attention which you have given to all the variety of Irish business with which I have been under the necessity of troubling you during the whole course of this very important session. If every wish of mine has not been entirely complied with, I have reason to fear it may have been owing to a want of that particular information which I could now wish had been laid before the Council. It was only withheld upon the apprehension of being unnecessarily troublesome. Your Lordship will understand that I am referring to the custom house bill; in relation to which, having transmitted all the papers and petitions relating to it, I contented myself with stating in my dispatches only a general idea of the matter.

"This business, which became a measure of

immediate necessity, on account of the ruinous state of the custom house, threatened a number of difficulties to my administration. I saw no possibility of avoiding them except by recurring to parliament, as the best means of obtaining the sense of the nation upon the subject.

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"Accordingly, upon the fullest hearing for several days together, where the parties adverse to the measure were heard even to their most minute objections, the merits of the measure were fully proved to the satisfaction of every body; and this was reported to me upon a division of 72 to 48. I did not foresee that petitions preferred against the measure by interested proprietors of the ground rents in the neighbourhood of the old custom house, or by persons immediately benefitted in defrauding the revenue, could be reckoned of any weight, as they were counteracted by petitions from three fourths, nay a many more, of the most respectable persons in this Kingdom.

"To explain how the building of the King's custom house becomes an object of such general concern, I must beg leave to inform your Lordship, that it is so closely connected with the building a new bridge lower down the river, as to make the measures, as it were, one and inseparable.

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"The Commissioners reported that the measure

would raise the revenue, by preventing of smuggling, in a sum at least of £10,000 a year. They said, moreover, that it would improve and not impair the port. It appeared, therefore, to me that, as powers must be lodged somewhere for carrying the scheme into effect, they could not be so well placed as in the hands of the Commissioners; which, constituted as that board now stands, is, in truth, the same as placing them in the hands of government itself. I did not scruple to give my hearty acquiescence to that measure, as far as consistently I could without deciding upon it; and, so early as in the month of November last, when Colonel Blaquiere stated to the House the state of the affairs of the nation, he did by my particular direction make provision for supplies on this account, to be granted to the amount of £12,000. This sum being blended with the other taxes would be continued, as matters of course, in the ensuing sessions, and would, more than ten times, supply the utmost expense; which, upon any Estimate, has never exceeded £40,000.

"If I could have conceived that these particulars could have been wanted, I should have done myself a pleasure in laying them before you; but, in truth, I have made it my study to avoid troubling your Lordship with any thing that appeared to me unnecessary; and have strove to make my dispatches as little voluminous as possible.

"For these reasons I have avoided touching upon many points in several other bills, and I have, in some cases, the same cause to lament. The bill for prohibiting the importation of wine in small casks, which was returned by Toole, is another instance of it. It was only to avoid giving your Lordship particular trouble that I forebore to mention that the great, and indeed the only, resource and support of revenue in this country is the excise law; and that all our adjudications are determined by it. There is, I believe, scarcely an instance of recovering damages to the Crown by a jury in the court of Exchequer for many years. Our whole dependence is upon the summary proceeding under the excise law.

"This was one of the material reasons for reuniting the boards of revenue; for as the imported excise is 5 per cent. upon all commodities, the same as the customs, it has been uniformly the practice to proceed under the act of excise. Consequently, the alteration made in this bill, by transferring all processes from the excise to the custom laws, has in effect defeated the very purpose of the bill; and left the revenue exposed to those frauds which, there is too much reason to believe, will be practised between this and the next session of parliament.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*June 4th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The regulations which are to be established in England with respect to the coin have created much uneasiness here, under the apprehension that they may be productive of the greatest distresses to this Country, unless some special provision is made. The proclamation which is expected to issue, will naturally operate to its fullest extent in this kingdom, although Ireland were not named. The light money, which is to be cried down in England, will cease to be current here; and, unless there is new coin to substitute in its stead, there will be no circulating specie in this kingdom. This is the general language that prevails, and, as the alarm appears to be increasing, I thought it necessary to convene such of his Majesty's Privy Councillors as were in Town, to take their opinions upon the matter. My object being to lay before your Lordship the true state of the case, as I am satisfied that any imformation upon a point of so much importance to the commerce and general welfare of this Kingdom, cannot be ill received by your Lordship.

"The council was assembled yesterday, and sat again to-day. It was, I think, the unanimous opinion that, unless some new specie were sent

to this Kingdom to exchange for that which is to be cried down, the greatest inconveniences and distress must follow. It seemed also to be thought that it would tend greatly to satisfy and quiet the minds of people here, if, in the Proclamation that is to issue in England, it were possible to say that Ireland was to be included in these regulations. The period for ascertaining the currency of the present guineas there might be settled in a future proclamation.

"These were the sentiments of the board, delivered to me as their opinions. I do not mean to lay them before your Lordship with any view of prescribing the means for removing the distresses which are apprehended. Your Lordship and the rest of his Majesty's servants will of course judge of and determine that matter. I should, however, be happy if any information I was able to give might lessen your trouble, and that I had any better to offer; but, upon searching for precedents of what was done in this Kingdom in the years 1695 and 1696, I had the mortification to find that all our records of that period were lost in the conflagration which happened here about the year 1721.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

(Duplicate to Lord North.)

"*June 19th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—I received, last night, an account of the death of Dr. Andrews, late Provost of Dublin University.

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"The Statutes of the college lay down that this office is to be filled by an ecclesiastic. It has, however, in many instances (and noteably in the late appointment of Dr. Andrews, upon the recommendation of the Duke of Bedford, then Lord Lieutenant of this Kingdom) been filled by a lay-man. The Crown has frequently exercised its power of dispensation in this matter, under the notion that a University situated in the Metropolis, requires at its head a person of greater experience and knowledge of the world than are, perhaps, always found in the character of an ecclesiastic.

"The event of Mr. Andrews' death has been so long expected as to occasion many applications to me.

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"Among the many embarrassments of my situation I have found none more difficult than to make a proper provision for Mr. Flood. Mr. Hutchinson, from his connection with my administration, was aware of this difficulty, and took an early occasion of expressing his wishes to do every thing in his power to remove it. Upon the event, therefore, of the Provost's death I sent Colonel Blaquiere to speak with Mr. Hutchinson upon that subject. He has shewn the greatest readiness to fall in with an arrangement which would enable me to offer to Mr. Flood an honourable appointment of the yearly value of £1,800; and also, at the same time, to take care of Mr. Serjeant Dennis, the principal friend and first object of Lord Shannon. Mr. Hutchinson has long wished to be relieved from his great weight of the business at the bar, which, however, brings him between £4,000 and £5,000 yearly. He saw perfectly the impossibility of my offering him any thing like an equivalent; but a desire to have more ease, and an opportunity of cultivating his taste for science and literature, which is a distinguished part of his character, weighed much with him in the matter. Beside which, he is possessed of a considerable estate in this country; and this disposed him to sacrifice as much in point of emolument as I could possibly desire.

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"This gentleman then appears to me to possess every qualification and accomplishment necessary for performing the duties of Provost. I can assure

your Lordship that it is not from my sense of his services, though they have been great and constant, in the House of Commons, the privy council, and the cabinet; it is not that I have found him, without equivocation or reserve, the warm and zealous supporter of my administration and of his Majesty's government in this country, that I am now induced to recommend him for the office of Provost. What guides my choice is, that I believe him to be a man of excellent private character, of good morals, regular in his religious duties, of great learning, knowledge, and experience, and of an age when those qualifications may be exercised with the best effects in superintending the University.

"If his Majesty shall be pleased to approve of Mr. Hutchinson for Provost, I shall then beg leave to recommend Mr. Flood to be appointed Alnager of Ireland, during his Majesty's pleasure, with the same salary of £1,000 yearly which Mr. Hutchinson now enjoys. I shall also propose that Mr. Serjeant Dennis succeed Mr. Hutchinson as Prime Serjeant; which will accomplish other arrangements in the law line highly beneficial to his Majesty's affairs, but not necessary to be now explained.

"The Alnage is now £1,800 yearly; £800 of which Mr. Hutchinson has for a term, of which twenty-one years remain unexpired; the purchase

of this cost that gentleman £5,000. The place of Prime Serjeant, including circuits, is £1,100 yearly; and the profits of Mr. Hutchinson's profession, including that office, are between £4,000 and £5,000 a year. The Provost's place, valuing the house highly, is about £2,000 yearly. Your Lordship will, therefore, observe that he will be a great loser in point of income. To make him some compensation, I have proposed, to which he has readily agreed, to recommend it to his Majesty to grant to two of that gentleman's younger sons the office of Searcher of the Port of Strangford, with a salary of £1,000 yearly to them, and the survivors of them, during his Majesty's pleasure. They are both minors, and not capable of holding that office as yet; but, as Mr. Hutchinson's family is numerous, I must also beg leave to ask that the grant may be also to him, as well as to his two sons and the survivors of them, during his Majesty's pleasure.

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"Your Lordship will observe that by those arrangements the great and ancient office of Alnager, which is now granted for a period of years, will be brought back to the Crown; and that government will obtain the assistance of a gentleman of powerful abilities by the acquisition of Mr. Flood. Lord Shannon will be gratified in his first and highest wishes, and the place of Provost will be

worthily and ably filled by a gentleman whose talents and experience will be of great use to government in every situation. The attainment of all those great points at the charge of £1,000 a year will, I flatter myself, be thought very good economy.

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"If his Majesty shall be pleased to approve of Mr. Hutchinson for the place of Provost, I request, most earnestly, that his Majesty's pleasure may be signified to me as soon as conveniently may be; as there are many people very importunate for my recommendation to succeed to that place.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*June 23rd*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Our session of parliament which, towards the latter end of it, has been very busy, is just over, and affords me time to write to your Excellency upon some points of importance.

"In our regulations respecting the gold coin we have never lost sight of Ireland, whose interest is necessarily involved in every measure that affects the circulation of Great Britain. Two proclamations will be issued to-morrow, one for this country, and the other for Ireland, for calling in the deficient money. They will differ from one another in a very few, and those not material, expressions. There must be some alterations in the days to be appointed for calling in the money, occasioned by the distance between the two countries. The names of the persons who undertake to exchange the deficient money cannot be inserted in the Irish proclamation; and we must trouble your Excellency to appoint some persons

in Dublin, Belfast, Limerick, Cork, and Waterford, or such other places as will best suit the conveniency of Ireland, who will engage in this business on reasonable terms. It would be advisable not to nominate a greater number than are absolutely necessary for the accommodation of the publick.

"I am in hopes that the distress in Ireland for new guineas will not be near so great as is apprehended, as I have intelligence of very great quantities of them having been lately remitted from hence. To prevent, however, all possible inconvenience from the want of weighty money, the lords of the treasury have come to a resolution of sending over to the deputy vice-treasurer of Ireland 50,000 guineas of weight, Mr. Clements must authorise some person to receive them for him here, and give security to apply them according to the directions of the act of parliament; and to return hither, with all convenient speed, an equal number of old guineas, not more deficient than the allowances in the treasury order of the 23rd day of July last. If this remittance shall not be sufficient for the necessities of Ireland, the treasury may, perhaps, be able to make a further remittance, as soon as they shall have received 50,000 old guineas in return for their first supply.

"That I may give your Excellency as clear an idea as possible of our plan of re-coinage, I enclose a copy of an act of parliament which received the royal assent yesterday; together with copies of the two proclamations for Great Britain and Ireland, and of the treasury order of July last.

"Mr. Carleton, who came over to solicit the linen business on the part of Ireland, is now, I believe, in London, and would be glad to be employed by Mr. Clements to receive the new guineas, and to convey them to Ireland, if Mr. Clements has no objection to give him the necessary authority.

"Mr. Robinson sends to Mr. Blaquiere, by the messenger, a copy of the agreement which we have made with several bankers and others in this country for exchanging new for old guineas, with which it may, perhaps, be convenient for your Excellency to be acquainted.

"I am very sensible that Mr. Flood has good pretensions to as considerable an office as a vice-treasurership in Ireland, or indeed to a better. My objection to his having it, I will freely confess, is that I fear much blame here, and no small difficulty in carrying on the King's business, if I consent to part with the disposal of these offices, which have been so long and so uniformly bestowed on members of the British Parliament. I readily acknowledge that the Irish members had reason to complain when two gentlemen who had no permanent connection in Ireland were

appointed chancellor of the exchequer and master of the rolls for life. Your Excellency knows that I have been ready to remedy that grievance, even at an unreasonable expense. Your Excellency will do me the justice likewise to own that I have never troubled you with Irish pensions with a view to British purposes. I have been always so sensible of the difficulties a Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has to struggle with, and of the obligations we have to him when he executes his trust in the very distinguished manner in which your Excellency has done it; that I shall think it my duty to afford him every support in my power. But you will, I am sure, see that it is almost impossible for me to comply with your request in this instance, and will not attribute my refusal either to want of respect to Mr. Flood, or of zeal for the success of your government.

"Report says that your Excellency intends to recommend Mr. Flood to the King as successor to the late provost of Trinity College. Although that office is much better than the other, I do by no means think it above Mr. Flood's merit; but I submit to your Excellency whether Mr. Flood, whose early principles, prejudices, and practice, have led him to oppose British government, can, with safety and propriety, be trusted with such a place for life; which, besides rendering him totally independent, gives him, in a manner, the

disposal of a Borough, and the means of forming the principles of the young nobility and gentry of Ireland. Perhaps this office may enable your Excellency to make arrangements which may satisfy Mr. Flood, but we cannot be too careful of the hands into which the provostship is put. It seems very dangerous to put it into the hands of any man who has long followed popular courses, and may be disposed to continue in them, either from inclination or to establish a reputation of consistency.

"Before I totally quit the subject of the vice-treasurership of Ireland, I must beg leave once more to recommend the memorial of the vice-treasurer's to your Excellency's notice and protection. By comparing the accounts Mr. Clements presented to your Excellency with those which he hath sent over to his principals, it plainly appears that the office is by no means, at present, £2,300 a year; and that it is greatly on the decline. I own that I wish most sincerely to hear that they can be saved from the additional expense thrown upon them by the last session of parliament, and secured from any further defalcations.

"Mr. Nesbit has lately applied to me in behalf of his nephew, Mr. John Nesbit, that Mr. Knox, the Collector of Dublin, may be permitted to resign his place to him. He has stated to me the superior activity and greater application to busi-

ness of his nephew, by which he apprehends that the revenue will be much benefitted. He understands your Excellency to be well disposed towards his petition, if I consent to it. In answer to his application I laid before him the resolution taken by the government of Ireland to put an end to the resignations, that is to say to the sale of revenue places; a resolution that I entirely approved, and from whence I apprehended it would be impossible to depart, without opening a door to the return of all those mischiefs which had made the resolution necessary. He pressed me, however, to write to your Excellency, and, in compliance with his request, I trouble you on the subject. Perhaps I may not understand the case, and, if so, I shall be glad to find it in my power to oblige Mr. Nesbit; but if the case is really as I take it to be, namely, an application for leave to purchase a revenue place, I must desire your Excellency to direct a line to be written to me, confirming my opinion, and stating the mischief that must arise from the practice of selling such places. This will, I hope, enable me to put an end to Mr. Nesbit's solicitations.

"Mr. John Herbert, upon hearing that Mr. Scott is to be preferred, has renewed his application to succeed him as counsel to the commissioners of the revenue. Your Excellency has already been troubled with a letter from me in favor of this

gentleman. His kinsman, Mr. Herbert, is in our parliament, and is connected with the family of Lord Powis. On these accounts I should be glad to serve him, and shall esteem myself much obliged to your Excellency for promoting him, if he is qualified for the situation to which he aspires.

"I don't know whether I ever said a word to your Excellency in behalf of Colonel Cunningham, whom I believe to be one of your aid-de-camps. It was this gentleman's good fortune to obtain the rank of Lieut.-Colonel early, but he has remained ever since unnoticed, and still continues with the Commission and pay of a company; so that he is now less advanced than almost any other officer in the army of his standing. If your Excellency can be of any service to him, you will do a very acceptable thing, not only to your humble servant, but to many persons of consequence in Great Britain and Ireland.

"Mr. Lees will have communicated to your Excellency the conversation I had with him concerning Lord Clanbrassil, and I know that you have likewise received his complaints thro' another channel. I own I have been very much concerned at seeing him so much disappointed, as I had always the greatest reason to be thankful to him for his conduct in parliament. He brought himself into the House of Commons without the assistance of administration; has never asked a

single favor; but has been constant in his attendance, and uniform in his support, in Parliament. All this I mentioned to Mr. Lees, and was sorry to learn from him that those places were already filled up to which he hoped to recommend. I will not repeat to your Excellency his own representation of his case, of which you have already heard too much. My wish is to find some method of removing his uneasiness. Could your Excellency oblige him either by promoting Mr. Cavendish, or the gentleman who is distributor of stamps, or by any other way, you would gratify me more than you can imagine. If you think that he has been rather too earnest in his remonstrances, let not the favor be granted to him but to me. I assure you that I am not so eager in his cause only with a view to secure his future assistance, but chiefly because I would not, on any account, appear insensible to the uniform and disinterested attachment he has shewn to government ever since I have been in his Majesty's service.

"I cannot conclude, my Lord, without repeating my congratulations upon the great difficulties you have surmounted, and the important advantages you have obtained to the publick cause in the course of the last session of parliament. I am happy in being able to assure your Excellency that no person hath expressed himself more satisfied on this subject than his Majesty. He has

authorized me to inform you that he will, in a few days, promote Mr. Blaquiere to the order of the Bath as a mark of his Royal approbation of the zeal, diligence, and ability, which Mr. Blaquiere has exerted in the conduct of his Majesty's business, and by which he has so much contributed to the success of your Excellency's measures in parliament.

"I am sorry that we could not return the bill for the new custom house. Although the reasons in the report of the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals had their due weight with the privy council, I believe I may venture to say that one principal motive which induced us to withhold our consent, was that we had received intelligence of a negotiation between the contending parties for settling the dispute in an amicable manner. As we would not willingly offend either party, we did not think it right to prevent an amicable agreement by a hasty decision. In the next session it is to be hoped that the matter will be brought forward with a more general concurrence.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. Although I cannot solicit that Mr. John Nesbit may obtain the resignation of Mr. Knox, I beg leave to recommend him to your Excellency, in case any proper opportunity of serving him should offer. In another case your Excellency will find an ostensible letter for Mr. Flood."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*July 2nd*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency will have learned from Mr. Lees that his Majesty has approved of every part of your arrangement except the additional salary to the Alnager's place. The King wishes to see the present arrangement completed, if possible, without increasing the burthen upon the Irish establishment. I am sorry, on Mr. Blaquiere's account, that your entire plan could not take place, but he may depend upon it that the King's resolution on this point does not proceed from any personal objection. He is thoroughly sensible of Mr. Blaquiere's merit and services; but he is, at the same time, and not without reason, extremely unwilling to lay any fresh charge upon the Irish revenue, where the necessity of doing so is not very evident.

"Mr. Lees can inform your Excellency that Lord Townshend's solicitations for a pension for Sir George Macartney were rejected till the last moments of his Lordship's administration, when it was manifest that no other reward could be found for Sir George. My constant answer to Lord Townshend was that his Majesty would be well pleased to see a provision made for the Lord

Lieutenant's secretary by any offices which might become vacant during the government of his principal; but he did not approve of any additional burthen being brought upon the revenue for that purpose. Your Excellency will perceive from hence that his Majesty, in withholding his consent from the additional salary in question, does no more than act according to a rule which he had laid down long before your Excellency entered upon the government of Ireland.

"I am sorry to find that your Excellency has had so much trouble about Lord Clanbrassill. Although it is my interest and, still more, my inclination to serve him, I never thought of mentioning his complaint to the King, nor did I give him the least encouragement to apply there. As soon as I learnt from Mr. Lees that the offices for which he solicited were actually disposed of, it occurred to me that the method of conveying his wishes the most proper in itself, the most agreeable to you, and the most advantageous for him, would be by a confidential communication of them to your Excellency, through the channel of your private secretary. He could explain my sentiments much more fully and distinctly than I could hope to do by letter. In stating my reasons for wishing to see Lord Clanbrassill satisfied, he would have been able, at the same time, to express to your Excellency how averse I am from doing any

thing which can carry the least appearance of disrespect to you; or tend, in any degree, to embarrass your government. But this method of treating the business did not suit Lord Clanbrassill's impatience. In order to shew his displeasure against me, he has absented himself from the House of Commons during all the latter part of the session. Besides pressing your Excellency through another channel, he has, I find, had an audience of the King; and made his complaint in the closet. He did not inform me of this step when he visited me on the day before I wrote to your Excellency. As he could obtain no more from me, in that visit, than a promise to apply to you earnestly in his favour; instead of what he wanted, viz^{t}. a promise to insist upon the immediate removal of M^{r}. Cavendish, and M^{r}. Balfour's friend, in order to make room for the gentlemen whom he wished to recommend; he has, as I have since found, procured a letter to be written to your Excellency expressive of the King's wishes that his requests may be complied with.

"The letter was private, and I have never seen it. I hope it is not so worded as to carry the appearance of a command, for that I am confident was never meant. His Majesty has never spoken to me upon the subject, but I will venture to say that nothing can be further from his thoughts, than to press Lord Clanbrassill's requests at the

risk of distressing your administration. My wishes are, certainly, to see him pleased; and if your Excellency can do it, and will let him know that it is in consequence of my earnest recommendation, you will greatly oblige me; but I have not the smallest idea of setting his desires in competition with the honor of your Excellency's government, or the benefit of the publick service. While I continue in office I will never erect, or suffer to be erected, on this side of the water, a court for receiving private complaints against the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. If any real injury is done we shall hear it soon enough; but I am sensible that the post of Lord Lieutenant will not be tenable, if every person whose views are disappointed in Ireland is permitted to carry his points by application to the ministers in Great Britain.

"Your Excellency's authority shall never, if I can help it, be weakened by any encouragement improperly given to discontented Irishmen. This you may depend upon, and I trust that, if any thing should ever happen that seems to contradict my professions, you will explain yourself fully with me before you believe that I can act a part so contrary to my declared sentiments. Having said this, I will only add that I am sure that your Excellency will, on your part, be always ready to attend to any proper recommendation from

hence, and to assist our measures here, when it lies in your power to do it by favours within your department.

"I find that a late declaration of mine with respect to Lord Irnham has been much mistaken in Ireland. Colonel Luttrell, among other requests which he made to me some time ago, desired that, as his father had once a promise of a step in the Irish peerage, he might now be advanced to an Earldom. This I flatly refused, saying it was impossible to recommend Lord Irnham to a mark of the royal favour, while he was in declared opposition to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. This, as I guess, has been understood to mean that he should quit opposition. I was, accordingly, not a little surprised yesterday morning at seeing Lord Irnham enter my room with much satisfaction in his countenance, and many expressions of thankfulness for the attention I had paid to his son's application in his behalf. He informed me that, as his opposition had been to *me* (who, as he conceived, had been guilty of a breach of promise towards him), and not to your Excellency (for whom he had always had the greatest regard), he had, from the moment he had received the news in a letter from Captain Luttrell, desisted from giving any further trouble in parliament, and zealously contributed to voting the address at the end of the session, *nem. con.* This he seemed to

consider as a valuable consideration which entitled him to an Earldom immediately. He added, however, many promises of attachment to government both in Great Britain and Ireland for the future. My answer to him was that, tho' there had been a great mistake with respect to my declaration to Colonel Luttrell, I should certainly be very happy to shew my regard to his Lordship; but, as to the step in the peerage, I could say nothing to it; as it would probably be very inconvenient to your Excellency's government in Ireland, if any honor of that sort should be granted on this side of the water, before the proper time should come for attending to similar applications in Ireland. This, I suppose, would be really the case, and it would be of service to me if your Excellency would, at a convenient time, express yourself in that manner to me, in a letter that I may shew to Lord Irnham.

"Before I leave this subject, I beg to mention another request of Colonel Luttrell with which I complied. It was that I should recommend one M^r. Macfarlane, a friend of his, to your Excellency for a place of Barrack-master. I shall esteem myself much obliged to your Excellency if this can be done.

"I find that Sir George Macartney's idea of changing his pension is that he is to be allowed to sell it, and not that he is to nominate another

person to hold it as his trustee. There are several objections to this proposal. It is, in fact, giving the pension for life; and it would have bad effects both from the discreditable appearance that always accompanies such sales, and from the danger of encouraging other applications for favours of the same kind. His proposal of reviving the Constableship of Toom, to be held during pleasure, is not without great objections; and yet it appears to me the more eligible proposal of the two. As this seems to be the proper time for placing of the Queen of Denmark upon the civil Establishment of Ireland, I will direct a King's letter to be prepared for granting to her Majesty a pension of £3,000 a year; but I will not permit it to be sent over until I can have heard whether your Excellency has any desire to have it delayed.

"The length of this letter prevents me from writing by this post to Mr. Blaquiere, but I hope soon to pay my respects to him.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"PRIVATE.

"*July 4th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I should be very uneasy indeed if I could charge myself either with want of attention or civility to Lord Clanbrassill, for whom no one can have a greater respect than I have. I don't know how to give a more convincing proof of it than by shewing my readiness to make a provision for the person his Lordship recommended to be distributor of stamps, whenever a proper opportunity offers. This proposal will, I flatter myself, be received with the same candour that it is offered, as it may fully answer Lord Clanbrassill's purpose. Your Lordship would not wish me to do anything inconsistent with my feelings of justice, and, as I cannot remove either Mr. Cavendish or Mr. Brabazon without a manifest hardship and unkindness, I judge it more proper, on all accounts, to make some other provision for the person recommended by his Lordship. It has not happened, since I came to Ireland, that any nobleman or gentleman of rank and fortune has put in a claim either to the appointment of a new created office, or to a patentee place in right of its

being in his town or neighbourhood. The difficulties which a Lord Lieutenant has to encounter would make such claims totally inadmissible, and would put it out of the power of government to confer favours on those who are best entitled to them.

"As your Lordship mentioned Mr. Waller and Mr. Shiell in one of your former letters, I should do them injustice if I did not acknowledge the propriety of their behaviour on all occasions, and the steady support they gave my administration. It was necessity, not choice, that obliged me to leave Mr. Waller out of the new commission for re-uniting the boards. When the number of clerks was reduced, my regard for Mr. Waller, and my desire to oblige his family, were my motives for continuing his brother in his employment, preferably to some others who had as good a right as he had to be continued in that office. Upon the whole, I am inclined to believe that Mr. Waller has no doubt of my kind intentions towards him, whenever it may be in my power to assist him.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*July 8th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I dreaded the late Provost's death, foreseeing many inconveniences that would

result from it. By taking a decisive part, and by falling in with the proposals which Mr. Hutchinson made to government, I had a prospect of making such an arrangement as his Majesty might approve of, and, at the same time, might gratify Mr. Flood. I have not had the good fortune to succeed in respect to Mr. Flood, yet I have still the satisfaction to find that the arrangement was approved of; and that I had, in a manner, anticipated your Lordship's wishes, before there was a possibility of communicating them to me.

"Mr. Flood is greatly offended that the Provostship was not offered to him. I saw him yesterday, and he complained most bitterly of the treatment he had received from government, laying the greatest stress on the promise Mr. Blaquiere had made him that he should have the first great office that became vacant. I observed to Mr. Flood that what had been done for the Prime Serjeant put it into my power to make an offer to himself that I was in hopes might have been acceptable to him. That I was also enabled to promote Serjeant Dennis to the rank of Prime Serjeant, and to make some further removes for gentlemen who were well entitled to the favour of the Crown. Mr. Flood took occasion to set forth his important services, which he thought very justly entitled him to the preferment which had been given to Mr. Hutchinson; though he did

not declare whether he would have taken it if it had been offered to him. He laid great stress on the difficulties and obstructions which he could have thrown in our way, had he been disposed to be adverse and to put himself at the head of the Opposition; which, insignificant as it was latterly, would have been very formidable in the earlier part of the session, under the guidance and direction of an experienced leader.

"In answer to what I had said of Mr. Hutchinson's resigning two good employments in order to be Provost, he observed that he had made as great, if not a greater, sacrifice, meaning his popularity and reputation which he had risked in support of government. He said that he was now treated with a degree of contempt that determined him never more to have any concerns with the Castle that paid so little regard to engagements. He conceived he had been treated extremely ill by Lord Frederick Campbell, in Lord Townshend's time, but much worse by Mr. Blaquiere in my administration.

"He added that it would be a lesson for every body to be very cautious for the future in their dealings with ministers. He said he could make it appear that he had saved the Crown more than five times the value of the favour he asked; that I could not but be very sensible of the very different behaviour that might have been

expected from many gentlemen if things had taken a different turn in Parliament.

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"He saw himself now reduced to a most humiliating and perplexed state, either to become a humble suppliant for favour, or to give up all hopes of it, and to submit tamely to every species of ridicule and contempt. In answer to all this, and more to the same effect, I told Mr. Flood that he had not so much as mentioned a wish to be placed at the head of the University either to Mr. Blaquiere or to me, and that it would have answered no end to have made him an offer of what would not have been in my power to get for him.

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"I said that I thought the faith of government was pledged to make an ample provision for him; and, if it was not done, I should be ready to acknowledge he had been deceived and ill used. Disagreeable, my Lord, as it was to me to hold this kind of language, I chose rather to submit to it than to have made him a tender of the Provostship of the College, that would have placed him in a station of independence, and given him the opportunity of becoming really extremely troublesome and formidable to this and all future administrations. I plainly foresaw that by recommending Mr. Hutchinson to the Provostship it re-

duced me to the necessity of urging Mr. Flood's request to be one of the Vice Treasurers. Notwithstanding all the objections which, I am well aware, may be made to such a concession, yet, my Lord, I do most seriously recommend it to your Lordship's consideration, as a matter of the highest concern to his Majesty's government. Your Lordship knows what my sentiments were some time ago. I was less importunate upon the subject than I am at present, because I thought the circumstances were very different from what they now are. I stated to Mr. Flood all the difficulties that must occur, even if his Majesty's consent could be obtained. I reminded him that he could not suppose Mr. Ellis would do any thing to accommodate him; and that Lord Clare and Mr. Jenkinson might be very unwilling to consent to any arrangement that might affect their own situations. In short, I did what I could to draw off his attention from his favourite object, the Vice Treasurership; but all to no purpose. I was obliged to act with the greatest caution in this affair, lest he should have fixed his views upon some employment for a term of years, or for life; which would have been still more liable to objections than what he now desires.

"Your Lordship will be pleased to observe, that by recommending Mr. Flood to be Provost, I might, in some measure, have fulfilled my engagement with him, and thus thrown all the difficulties on English government. I foresaw, however, the many inconveniences that were likely to ensue, and I chose rather to risk my own administration, than to be wanting, on such an occasion, in my duty to the Crown.

"There are times when every thing is to be risked rather than involve government in certain difficulties. This must be considered as one of those critical moments, on which a great deal hereafter may depend. How far it may concern me is a matter of very little importance, in comparison of the effect it may hereafter have on the affairs of this Kingdom. It is submitted to your Lordship whether it may not be advisable to secure Mr. Flood, almost at any expense, rather than to risk an opposition, which, conducted by a man of his abilities, may render the success of administration more precarious the next session, a state of things which might endanger, perhaps defeat, some of the capital arrangements that have lately taken place, and which now stand in need of all the support that government can give them to make them complete and durable. I have only to request your Lordship not to consider me personally any further than as a part of this government. As long as I am able to support a character of honour and integrity, in the few instances where the credit of government is

pledged, I may hope to be a useful servant of the Crown. Should it, however, unfortunately appear that I am unable to make good such engagements as the circumstances of this government may have required, I fear it may be out of my power to do his Majesty any further service in this Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*July 9th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I no sooner received your Excellency's letter of the 2nd of this month, than I gave immediate directions that a proclamation should be prepared according to your Excellency's desire. This proclamation was signed yesterday by his Majesty, will be inserted in this night's Gazette, and, I hope, delivered to your Excellency at the same time with this letter. The further days appointed for crying down the guineas under 5, 6, are August the 5th to September 5th. We could not postpone the latter period without great inconvenience and danger. If a longer space of time should be allowed for the currency of these pieces in Ireland, after they cease to be current in England, it is obvious that great quantities of light money will be exported from hence to Ireland; more time will in fact be given for their currency here than is intended; and, consequently, much greater opportunities afforded of defrauding the revenue. Having fixed the latter of the two periods to September 5th, we could not defer the first beyond the 1st of August, as it

seemed proper to allow a complete month for the business of exchanging. The treasury, as your Excellency will perceive by the act of parliament, has credit for no more than £250,000, for all the expenses and losses occasioned by the re-coinage, and therefore we think we cannot prudently issue above 50,000 Guineas at once for the service of Ireland. But, as fast as the deputy vice treasurer sends light guineas to England, he shall have an equal number of weighty pieces in return. If this method will not supply Ireland with a sufficient supply, or with sufficient dispatch, your Excellency will be so good as to apprize me of it, and you may depend upon it that the lords of the treasury will do every thing in their power for the accommodation of Ireland.

"I have directed the warrant for issuing the money to M^r. Nesbit to be got ready, so that the guineas may be delivered and sent off as soon as ever the recognizance arrives.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*July 15th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I beg leave to make my sincerest acknowledgments to your Lordship for signifying to me his Majesty's approbation of my conduct. It is what I have ever been ambitious of deserving, and it will be the study of my life to deserve the continuance of it.

"I am sorry to observe that the Vice Treasurers' Offices have suffered so considerably; but I am still in hopes that the loss will not be quite so heavy as was apprehended. I need not acquaint your Lordship that the many difficulties, which I had to surmount during the course of the last session of parliament, made it impracticable for me to compass every thing. The interest of the Vice Treasurers was by no means overlooked; but the opportunity of serving them seemed less favourable than, I hope, may be expected during the next session; when, I flatter myself, we shall have little more to ask than the money bills, and some additional regulations for the improvement of the revenue.

"From daily experience, I am now more and more

convinced of the expediency of putting an end to the sale of revenue employments; and though, in this instance, it may put it out of your Lordship's power to oblige Mr. Nesbit, and make it impossible for me to shew that regard for Mr. John Knox which he really deserves; yet, I flatter myself that these gentlemen will be candid enough to submit to a measure, which was very wisely adopted to prevent the many inconveniences and abuses arising from the sale of offices.

"It is very uncertain whether I shall be able to prevail upon the solicitor general to succeed Mr. Justice Malone, without acquiescing to such terms as may not be advisable for government to grant. If I can bring this affair to bear, I may have an opportunity of doing his Majesty a most essential piece of service, in recommending to that office Mr. Scott, the council to the revenue board, a very able man, who is very high in his profession, a man of Parliamentary abilities, and approved integrity.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"MOST PRIVATE.

"*July 20th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In a letter which I had the honour of writing to your Lordship, about three

weeks ago, I proposed to make a provision for one of Lord Clanbrassill's friends; equal in value, if not better, than that of the distributor of stamps. When his Lordship considers the fairness of the proposal, and my readiness to oblige him, it is to be hoped he will be satisfied; and not insist any longer on the removal of Mr. Cavendish and Mr. Brabazon; to which it is impossible for me ever to submit, without letting down the dignity of my station, to the manifest prejudice of his Majesty's government.

"Your Lordship sees Lord Irnham's affair in the true light. Any new creation, or even promotion, in the Peerage, now, or, indeed, at any time before the latter end of the next session of parliament, would make so much uneasiness, and open the door to so much solicitation, that the consequences might be very serious.

"Any one of less experience than your Lordship in things of this kind, would be surprised to hear of the many very unreasonable applications that are frequently made here for Peerage, and promotions in the Peerage. I have uniformly resisted many in the first instance; and I have endeavoured to satisfy those who, in Lord Townshend's administration, were recommended for the Peerage, that it would be highly improper to take any further steps whatever, before the end of this parliament.

"If there is any mode of gratifying Sir George Macartney, without reviving the constableship of the castle of Toom, I believe it will be less liable to objections. When any method can be thought of that may accommodate Sir George, without drawing government into a scrape, your Lordship shall be apprized of it, that I may receive your commands before any further step is taken.

"Whenever his Majesty shall be pleased to issue his letter for placing the Queen of Denmark on the civil establishment of Ireland, for a pension of £3,000 per annum, the necessary steps shall be taken here for carrying his Majesty's pleasure into immediate execution.

"I wait the determination of Mr. Flood's affair with the greatest anxiety; because I am persuaded that a great deal may hereafter depend on the event.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Colonel Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Bond-street, facing Strafford-street,*
"*August 2nd*, 1774.

"MY LORD,— . . . The kind concern you take about me claims, and has indeed, my warmest and most *grateful* acknowledgments; they will be eternal with me for all your goodness, if there is hereafter any remembrance to be had of any thing that has passed before.

"The difficulties which General Elliot raises are indeed of a very serious nature. I did not think him so unaccommodating. Your Excellency sees them in their proper light; and it does not surprise me that these things altogether sicken you of your situation a little. For my part, I see not the least colour of propriety in what the General desires. I will go farther, and declare them impossible; and that, unless your secretary had a commission to be secretary also to the Commander in chief, no orders of yours in the military line could be promulged upon the footing on which he desires business to be conducted. It is, besides, contrary to any practice ever held in the Kingdom. I think General Elliot might be satisfied

with the powers and authorities held by Lords Rothes, Molesworth, &c. My private opinion is he does not like the station.

"I am respectfully ever and devotedly
"Your Lordship's faithful and
"obliged servant,
"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE.

"*August 4th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—By Monday next, I am in hopes we shall be able to send over 50,000 guineas, 5, 3, in return for the 50,000 new guineas that were sent hither. Notwithstanding all the precautions that were taken by government, and the timely supply of new guineas that was obtained by your Lordship's kind assistance and readiness to relieve our wants, many parts of this Kingdom have already been greatly distressed. More especially has this fallen upon the manufacturing parts, where the linen trade has been at a stand for want of a sufficiency of specie to carry on business. This inconvenience, however, will only be felt until a supply of weighty guineas find their way into the country, and begin to circulate. We may hope soon to be relieved from these difficulties. By a return made by the different collectors, it appears there are more than 50,000 guineas of the 5, 3, in their hands. Before the end of this month there is reason to believe the whole amount of the

5, 3, in the hands of government will not be less than 100,000 guineas, over and above the sum of 50,000 which will be sent off on Monday. Without presuming to ascertain the number of light guineas in this Kingdom, and consequently the precise sum we may have occasion for, I believe I may venture to assure your Lordship that less than 200,000 guineas will scarce answer all the purposes of trade, and supply the wants of the public.

"I have been the more particular on this occasion, as I imagine your Lordship may, by being timely apprized of our wants, be better able to afford us the most seasonable relief; as I have hitherto experienced in every instance.

"Upon examining the nature of the Alnager's place, it appears always to have been held for years or lives, and that, therefore, I could not dispose of it on any other terms. This makes it necessary for me to trouble your Lordship with a request to obtain his Majesty's letter for Mr. Blaquiere's holding the Alnage for 31 years.

"I am, &c."

Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Some extraordinary publications that I have seen, within these few days, in

the public papers, inviting the citizens of Dublin to subscribe towards contesting his Majesty's rights to the Phœnix Park, make it necessary for me to press upon your Lordship the speedy execution of a grant of a few acres thereof. Were it not for these publications, I should have thought it unnecessary to have thus troubled your Lordship, after what I had already mentioned upon that subject.

"The Phœnix Park, the undoubted property of the Crown, has been, for some time past, treated rather as a neglected common and galloping place for all sorts of rabble, than as a Royal Park where the better classes of people, and invalids, should have been permitted to exercise in. This abuse, like most others, has gradually changed its form from permission to a claim. This claim it is endeavoured to establish by a general stock purse, with the object of defeating any grant or inclosure that hath been, or may be hereafter, made by the Crown. Should this matter be acquiesced in, his Majesty's rangers, keepers, bailiffs, and all other officers whatsoever, must not only be materially injured, but the right of the Crown to the park itself must be rendered precarious, or of little use, and an expensive burthen.

"I, therefore, hope, in order to prevent any inconveniences which may arise from a supposed acquiescence in the present clamorous usurpation,

that your Lordship will think it not imprudent to pass a grant to Sir John Blaquiere, as bailiff; and that you will be pleased to lay my humble request before his Majesty for that purpose.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October 7th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—General Harvey was with me to-day for two hours; and I shall confess that I was glad to see him, because, in spite of all that has passed, I still think him a man of truth and probity.

"With an apology that would please and satisfy your Excellency, he told me that he came to me by advice of the King. He had wished to avoid engaging in a matter foreign from his concerns; but his Majesty having expressed a desire that he should stir, made him engage to accommodate discordant friends, and to adjust this matter, so that the service might not suffer. The King wished a Commander in chief. Your Excellency, his Majesty knew, wished to have one also. The opposition alone came from Mr. Blaquiere. This was the amount of the King's sentiments, though by no means the words of the General. I am obliged to state them to your Lordship, because I will state the truth.

"After talking two hours, I was at a loss to find

any complaint of Mr. Elliot's which bore even the shadow of justice.—'He was not made a Privy Counsellor.'—Your Excellency knows, and so does he, that on the very day of his arrival I notified to him your intentions of calling him to the council board. The rest amounted to a kind of a general dissatisfaction at his limited powers; together with an implied jealousy of the secretary, and with some other slight charges of inattention in me. I told Harvey that we were dwelling upon trifles. The point of dispute was the furtherance of the King's military service. Your Excellency, I said, had this as much at heart as the General; and it was a point upon which your secretary did not seem likely, in the height of his impudence, to hold different views to, nor to be capable of being an enemy of, the profession to which he had been for all his lifetime attached. The Commandership in chief, I said, was an office of your own creation; your secretary had warmly advocated the creation of it in the House; the Commander in chief had been named for the furtherance of your own schemes.

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"What then was to be the avail of obstructing the designs of an officer so appointed? It was well known that your Excellency had but one object, namely, that of promoting the King's service, * * * and that you wished to

do every thing which might facilitate the General's work.

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"You meant not to abridge the necessary authority of the General, but to adhere, in the official business, to the practice of ages, from which you could not depart. These forms, I did take the liberty to insist upon, could in no way affect the position of the General, unless he meant to arrogate to himself the supreme and independent command of the Irish Army, independently of Irish Government.

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"I think General Harvey was satisfied, because I think, if he had had any doubts he would have expressed them.

"I am, &c."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October 13th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—Having nothing to do this day I waylaid my Lord Rochford, in his passage to court, and found that the King had yesterday spoken to him on the subject of General Elliot's complaint. My Lord had told his Majesty of my having signified to the General, on the very day of his arrival, your Excellency's intentions of making him a privy counsellor; which, by what I

could discern, seemed a surprise to the King, who must have heard it as a complaint that he was not made one.

"Lord Rochford was in such a hurry that I could not well make out all that had passed. His Majesty had said he wished his Commander in chief should have the same powers Lord Rothes had, or something to that effect. On my part, I said that I had told the General you meant he should have every power any general ever had had.

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"Upon this business I cannot, for my life, guess what the General means. I shall hear more of it shortly, and will, of course, immediately let you know it. Lord Rochford told me too, but all upon the gallop, that the King had ordered General Rich to be turned out of his government of Londonderry, for contumacy to the judgment of a court martial; and that the government was to be sequestered in the hands, I think, of Mr. Conway, for the discharge of some military demand which he refused to satisfy.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Sir John Blaquiere:—

"*October 14th*, 1774.

"DEAR SIR,—I am very much concerned to find that it has been thought necessary to lay before his Majesty the difficulties and *punctilios* that have occurred between two persons (I may presume to say) equally zealous in his Majesty's service, and equally impressed with sentiments of regard and esteem for each other.

"Can I have the most distant wish to lessen the Commander in chief in the opinion of the public, or to make the least encroachment upon that power and authority which are so essentially necessary for his Majesty's service? Have I not given proofs, not only of my respect for the station, but of my very sincere esteem for the honourable gentleman who so worthily fills it?

"I wish to conform, as far as possible, to what has been the practice in former administrations. The Commander in chief, if I am not misinformed, used to lay before the Lord Lieutenant all memorials relating to the army business; and used to issue all orders to the army, except such as related to money matters, which ever have, and

ever must be, conveyed through the channel of the secretary's office. As this has been the constant practice, I shall uniformly adhere to it, till such time as I receive his Majesty's commands to the contrary.

"I shall be ready, on all occasions, to pay the greatest deference to the opinion of the Commander in chief (whose experience and judgment will have great weight with me), as far as is consistent with the management and direction of the important trust that has been put into my hands, and for which I am responsible. At the same time, I can never consent to make a surrender of the patronage of the army, without betraying the trust with which his Majesty has honoured me. Such a surrender would make it absolutely impracticable to carry on the government, in a country where all the favours of the Crown are scarcely sufficient to gratify the importunities of those who apply for them.

"If it should become necessary to explain my sentiments or to clear up any doubts that may remain in the General's mind, you are at liberty to make the proper use of this letter."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*October 19th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In the list of military successions, herewith transmitted to be laid before his Majesty, your Lordship will observe that I have recommended Lieutenant Pakenham, of the 54th, for the company in the 33rd regiment of foot on this establishment vacant by the death of Captain Sackville Turner.

"This gentleman is one of the representatives for the County of Longford; who, with his brother, Lord Longford, very warmly and steadily supported his Majesty's government here during the last session of Parliament. My Lord Longford is a man of ability, an able speaker in the House of Lords, and greatly respected in this country. And, in addition to these considerations, I had, from motives of personal regard and esteem, given his Lordship an early assurance of my earnest recommendation to his Majesty of his brother for a company. From the particular circumstances, however, attending every vacancy that has happened since my arrival in this kingdom, I have hitherto been prevented from laying Mr. Pakenham at his Majesty's feet for that mark of his Royal favour. In the present instance, in the 33rd regiment no technical difficulties appear to present themselves. . . . .

"Therefore, my dear Lord, I must desire that your Lordship will be pleased to make it my humble and earnest request to his Majesty that he will be graciously pleased to promote Lieutenant Pakenham to the vacant company in that regiment.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Mr. Lees.

FROM Mr. Lees to Sir John Blaquiere:—

(By Earl Harcourt's permission.)

"*October 16th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR SIR,—My Lord Lieutenant, with his usual kindness, condescended to shew me your letter to him upon the conversation that passed between you and General Harvey. I should do the highest injustice to his Excellency if I withheld from you a single circumstance of his conduct and feelings upon the subject of the patronage of the army, and of the discontents which his firmness to oppose any intended usurpation may be supposed to have created upon that head. His Excellency declined to consider the subject upon narrow and personal grounds; he considered it unnecessary to justify your conduct against a charge of having endeavoured to circumscribe General Elliot's rights, or to obstruct his wishes; or of having held opinions upon military or other subjects different from his own. He knew your personal attachment to the General, and traced your regard for that gentleman through a variety of acts and expressions. He has so often discountenanced the shabby expedient of insinuating

a difference of sentiment between the Lord Lieutenant and his confidential secretary, that he seemed surprised at the folly of repeating what has been so often exploded. His Excellency has, therefore, applied himself, in his letter of the 14th, solely to the topic of complaint. He considers his Majesty as the Commander in chief of his own armies; and, as his Majesty's representative in this Kingdom, he holds it his duty not to give up the patronage of the army to any but the King's representative. Could his Excellency think himself justified in so pernicious an innovation, General Elliot would be personally to his Excellency much the most agreeable man to hazard the experiment upon.

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"The patronage of the army in this country has never been surrendered into the hands of a Commander in chief.

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"It is a proposition that strikes his Excellency as big with mischief to the King's government, and as peculiarly inconsistent with the idea of a resident Lord Lieutenant. Could his Excellency suppose this enterprizing alteration to take place, he sees the following conclusion as inevitable. The Commander in chief would be a military Lord Lieutenant; and would become, whether in or out of Parliament, a great and

formidable parliamentary character. He would be worshipped by almost every man in either House of Parliament as the source of patronage and provision. Particularly would this be the case in a country not quite so remarkable for industry as it is for the number of younger sons and younger brothers; in a country where the hopes of an ensigncy induces a lord or a squire to expend ten times its value in parliamentary expenses.

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"Indeed, that a resident Lord Lieutenant cannot possibly submit to be curtailed or controlled by a Commander in chief seems self evident.

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"At this time especially it is peculiarly inexpedient to weaken the Chief Governor's hands, which would be the necessary consequence of dividing his powers.

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"My Lord Lieutenant is decisively of opinion that the discipline and management of a great army in Ireland, the forming them to action, and regulating them to the will and wisdom of the sovereign for his royal purposes and the advantage of the State, is an ample and sufficient task for a man of the most extensive military knowledge and experience, such as the Commander in chief is expected to be. The power of rewarding and

punishing must rest in the hands of the Crown. Whoever the King, in his wisdom, may entrust with the admininistration of this Kingdom, ought to be the dispenser of this power; otherwise, the Commander in chief, and not the Lord Lieutenant, will be, in effect, Chief Governor of the Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"PRIVATE.

"*October 20th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—If your Lordship had not acquainted me that his Majesty had made his arrangements, in respect to a new governor of Londonderry and Culmore Fort; I should have taken the liberty of requesting that that government should be bestowed on General Elliot. It would have been a gracious mark of Royal favour to a very deserving officer, until some more distinguished mark of the King's gracious bounty might have been accorded.

"However inadequate the stipend of the Commander in chief may be to the expenses that are unavoidable, I must do the general the justice to say that I never heard him utter the least complaint on that account. Your Lorship's letter precludes me from saying any more on the subject. If I have gone too far you will be so good as to excuse me.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I have desired Sir John Blaquiere to wait on your Lordship with this letter."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October 21st*, 1774.

"My Lord,—It was my first business this morning to go with your Lordship's letter in my hand to Lord Rochford, that he might see, from your own words, what your Excellency's sentiments upon this subject were. He had had no opportunity, I find, of laying before his Majesty my letter of yesterday, and he expressed a very earnest desire that I should make the addition to it which your Lordship will see scored at the end of the second paragraph. It seems the King has pointedly mentioned it to Lord Rochford that he wished General Elliot to have the same powers, and as full, as those that were exercised by Lord Rothes. I know your Excellency's sentiments upon this head, and that you never had a wish to abridge the authority. I, therefore, did not hesitate to add the above words,

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"When Lord Rochford had read your letter, he desired by all means that he might shew it to the King. Sir Stannier, who is your Excellency's devoted servant, highly recommended it also.

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"Your Excellency's declarations made, as Lord Rochford tells me, a great impression upon the King.

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"In reading my letter, the King started at the expression touching the patronage of the army. You will find it towards the latter end, and at the words *to deprive him even of the semblance of the patronage of the army;* his Majesty said it never was intended by any means. General Elliot, I hear, talks high, and his Majesty sees it. His Majesty told Lord Rochford who, I believe, was endeavouring to do me a good turn, that we were both good sort of men, and were both traduced in the opinion of the world: that the general was said to wish to decline the command in Ireland; and of me it was reported that I wished to prevent the appointment of any Commander in chief at all; but that he knew them both to be groundless. He concluded with desiring that the general and I might accommodate matters between us; that any breach upon the occasion might be prejudicial to his service; and that he should think it would lay at our doors; or to that effect. I have, however, very particularly acquainted Lord Rochford and Harvey that I cannot treat with General Elliot,

or any body else, on a subject of this importance, whilst it is my misfortune to be at such a distance from your Excellency. The general is, besides, my Lord, outrageous in his demands; and if you had seen, as I have done, a letter he wrote yesterday to General Harvey, you would, even yourself, be put to some difficulty to answer it. He makes a plain demand, though not so expressed in the words, to cut off the Lord Lieutenant from all communication with his administration, by desiring an immediate correspondence in writing with him, and refusing to receive his pleasure through any other mean. In this manner, he would deprive the Lord Lieutenant of the only security the constitution has given him, that of placing his secretary between himself and the people.

"The general desires to be put on the same footing with the Commander in chief in England. Even Harvey was talking to me the same nonsense, to-day; but they forget, or they don't know, that the Lord Lieutenant is captain general and commander in chief of the forces in Ireland. Elliot may be an efficient man; but the Earl of Harcourt is responsible to the King and to the public, for every military as well as civil measure that may be transacted. I thought General Harvey was convinced and satisfied. Lord Rochford, to our misfortune, is gone into the country, and does not return for a fortnight. I must not, however

forget to recite one anecdote that passed in a conversation between him and General Elliot, to-day. It was upon the subject of being made a privy counsellor. My Lord told him, 'Why, General, that is done.' 'Yes,' replied the General, 'it is, but I am not sure that I ought not to have reparation made to me for its having been put off so long,' or words to that effect."

Letter from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October 22nd*, 1774.

"My Lord,—Yesterday (and not before) the King was pleased to direct Lord Rochford to call on me, relative to the doubts I entertained, and which your Excellency had allowed me to lay before his Majesty, as to how far the Commander in chief and the Lord Lieutenant's office could interfere with each other.

"I endeavoured, in the most concise manner, to explain the difficulties which your Excellency, with condescending goodness and patience, so often permitted me to enlarge upon. Lord Rochford seemed to be master of the subject; but declined further discussion for the present, owing to his being engaged in a multiplicity of business, and having his carriage at the door ready to set out for the country. He does not return in less than ten days at soonest. This, my Lord, it is easily imagined, will be a period of anxiety for me; when it is considered how much my private happiness depends upon some mode being adopted by which I may enjoy uninterruptedly your Excellency's confidence in the military department. What has been proposed I hope will be thought

reasonable, more especially as it is grounded upon precedent in the Duke of Bedford's time; I have now, luckily, recovered an example, indisputably genuine, amongst some papers of Lord Rothes'[a]. This contains his Grace's answers to several of my Lord's occasional proposals, paragraph by paragraph, with the Duke's initial at bottom. Should your Excellency please to approve this method of proceeding, I believe it will confine each department within its proper sphere, tend to the dispatch of military business, and contribute much to the maintenance of good order and discipline.

"On this, and every occasion, I resign myself to your Excellency; only wishing to become an instrument, not totally useless, in a system of government which has so happily succeeded to the advancement of his Majesty's service in Ireland.

"I have the honour to be, with profound respect, &c."

[a] Lord Rothes was Commander in chief when the Duke of Bedford was Lord Lieutenant.

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October 24th*, 1774.

"My Lord,—. . . . In the conversation which I had with the General, he said in warmth, though by no means in anger, 'That he meant to separate, 'entirely and absolutely, the military from every 'other department; that he would have the last 'words with the Lord Lieutenant upon all military 'points, uncontrolled and unconnected with any 'departments or any persons whatsoever.' A declaration of this kind, so new and extraordinary, made, I suppose, a visible impression upon my countenance. The General asked me if I did not understand this to be the purport of what he had demanded in his letter to Harvey. I confessed to him that, to me, it appeared to have a tendency that way; it might imply it, but certainly did not so positively express it. The General replied, 'This is my meaning, and if I am called upon for 'an explanation, I shall say so.'

* * * * * *

"Wishing to shew the General how little it could be desired to obstruct him in his business, much less to do business without him; I instanced,

by a parallel of your late proceedings, how very little you could mean to obtrude parliamentary influence upon him. I obliged him to observe, that in *one* instance of promotion only, had you allowed a powerful reccommendation to operate, to the exclusion of considerations of military merit or length of service alone.

* * * * * *

"I recounted, this morning, the whole transaction to Lord North. He was rather shy in speaking his mind; which appeared, however, to me, full of the importance of the subject. He assented, whenever he did speak, to the steps you had taken; disrelishing the General's claims, and every idea of parting with the patronage of the army. He did not, however, rightly understand, I think, at first, that any thing so very important could be appendent upon the rights, forms, and exclusive mode of doing business which General Elliot insisted upon. Lord Rochford advised me to speak to Lord North. Both Lord Rochford and Lord North are your Lordship's good friends."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October* 26, 1774.

"Allow me, my dear Lord, to express the exultation I feel at your having recommended General Elliot to the vacant Government of Londonderry.

Upon every step you show your generosity and greatness of mind. I am sure it will do you credit with his Majesty and all mankind. There never was an occasion which called for greater exertion of judgment, and you have seized it.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to General Elliot:—

"*October 28th*, 1774.

"DEAR SIR,—You cannot be more desirous than I am to remove every difficulty and clear up every doubt that may, in any way, obstruct his Majesty's service. Such service can never be carried on effectually, if there is not a right understanding between the Lord Lieutenant and the Commander in chief.

"In a letter that I lately wrote to Sir John Blaquiere, I gave him very freely my sense of the mode of carrying on the service conformable to the practice of former times; without lessening the credit and influence of the Lord Lieutenant, and without lowering the rank and character of the Commander in chief.

"It is evident, from the office books, which I must beg leave to consider as the very best authority, that all military memorials, except such as relate to money matters, ought, in the first instance, to go through the channel of the Commander in chief. It then becomes his duty to lay them before the Lord Lieutenant, and after receiving his commands, to convey them to the

several persons from whom the memorials have come. The Lord Lieutenant, on the other hand, signifies to the office the several orders that he has given, that they may be carried into execution in the usual official mode. The office can receive orders only from the Lord Lieutenant, and that for a very plain reason, because accountable to him only for any neglect.

"In laying the several memorials before the Lord Lieutenant, the Commannder in chief will have frequent opportunities of doing justice to the merit of the most worthy and deserving officers. His opinion will always have great weight, and will ever be attended to, as far as is consistent with his Majesty's service in general. For this service the Lord Lieutenant is responsible to the Crown. The right of a Lord Lieutenant to recommend to his Majesty those who may be deemed the objects of his royal favour can never be departed from. A Lord Lieutenant divested of that right, would be no longer in a condition to serve the Crown, as it would deprive him, in a great measure, of the means of obliging; and, consequently, of that support so necessary for carrying on the measures of government.

"This, sir, as nearly as I can recollect (for I have not the copy of my letters by me), was the purport of my letter to Sir John Blaquiere. I have reason to think it may have been laid before

the King, and I flatter myself his Majesty will find that I have not claimed or assumed any new or unusal powers. I desire simply to conform to the practice of former times, as the surest mark to steer by. I have not yet seen the notes that were found amongst the late Lord Rothes' papers; to which, however, I am ready to pay all due deference, in every instance that does not clash with what has been the usual mode of proceeding.

"If I have been wanting, on any occasion, in not showing you all the regard and attention that are due to your private character as well as to your public station, I must, indeed, have been very unfortunate; and I must have failed in the very instance where I wished most to convince you of the personal esteem and friendship of,

"Dear Sir, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November 8th*, 1774.

"I FORGOT, my Lord, to mention that General Elliot complained to me this morning, bitterly, of the latter paragraph in your letter which charged him, as it were, with having an ungrateful sense of your civilities. I told the general I was not surprised at it, for the current report throughout the town, in all companies, has been that General Elliot did not think he had been well treated, or well received, in Ireland. For my own part, though I could not think he had said so, and really did not believe he had, I had never chose to engage in a controversy upon the subject. I thought it not only probable, but certain, that the report must have reached you. As I believe he intends writing to your Excellency upon this very point to-night, I have judged it not improper to let you know what passed, this day, upon it.

"I am, &c."

Letters from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November 8th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—Your Excellency's letter of the 28th October does me too much honour, by communicating to me the general sense of a paper at this time before his Majesty. Of this paper I had not the least knowledge. Therefore, being so circumstanced, it becomes me now to receive this information with respectful silence.

"Ever since leaving Ireland, I have, it is true, laboured under a constant earnest anxiety; but never felt any painful mortification till on reading the last paragraph of your Excellency's letter. As to the rank and character of a Commander in chief, it is a mere name, without value or currency, until established by your Excellency's stamp. I have repeatedly announced that the position does not seem to me to be treated with too much honour. But, my Lord, I have never missed an opportunity to proclaim the manifold unmerited favours daily lavished upon me in my *private* character. Had no other motive prompted, my vanity would not have allowed me to conceal the degree of estimation I seemed to possess at the Castle. I may safely say, I have boasted these favours,

not with design to have it reported to your Excellency, but because I felt, and do feel, the most unbounded gratitude, joined with a respectful attachment, which not even the hardest measures shall ever efface. I do not expect that what I can suggest should remove the fatal impression; and, most probably, I may never be at hand to justify my declarations by my conduct. The stroke is struck, and I submit. It is the forerunner of such calamities as my evil star has destined me to suffer. But I stop, lest these wretched reflections should carry me too far.

"I am, &c."

GENERAL ELLIOT'S OSTENSIBLE LETTER TO GENERAL HARVEY, DATED 18th NOVEMBER, 1774. DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT, 30th MARCH, 1775.

"Dr. H.,—I am obliged, as you know, to set out for Chichester; but hope, without fail, to be at the levee Friday next. In the mean while, this note contains my thoughts in consequence of yesterday's conversation.

"Since our meeting, I have not ceased to revolve in my mind the subject in question. The result of my most deliberate reflections is that the fundamental point appears in no other light than what I have, so often, represented it. *All military business of whatever kind to be addressed to the Commander in chief; and by him laid before the Lord Lieutenant. On which his Excellency (at leisure) will signify his decisions and orders in* person *to the Commander in chief; who must request, for his justification, that my Lord Lieutenant will please to put his* initial *to the minutes. Should any unforeseen emergency require the orders to be transmitted by letter, the favour of his Excellency's* initial *is likewise humbly requested.*

"The reasons for proposing the above mode have, in a general way, been so often discussed between us, that I will not repeat them, nor add what may have since occurred. So much I know, or, rather, firmly believe, that no other mode can be devised to carry on the military business with advantage to his Majesty's service.

"Hitherto, it is hoped, the Commander in chief has incurred no blame; unless from too much pliancy, which he judged prudent, considering the circumstances. But, should he now (with his eyes open after a nearer view and without positive injunctions) engage to discharge a duty, when the most unsurmountable difficulties (in his judgment) seem to obstruct the completion; he would then, with justice, not only deserve the severest censures, but risk the greatest of all punishments, a forfeiture of the Royal confidence, of which I, personally, have so very lately received the most dis-

tinguishing mark. On the other hand, by adhering to what I think undoubtedly necessary, I shall, at worst, be called obstinate or mulish. At the same time, a charitable friend may, perhaps, suggest that this perseverance proceeds more from honesty than interested policy.

"Dr Harvey, Yours, &c.

"P.S. This is my opinion, and I do not object to its being communicated, in case opportunity offers, before I come back."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

(Duplicate to the Earl of Rochford.)

"*November 14th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Lord Belvidere died yesterday morning at his seat in Westmeath. By his death the place of Muster Master General is become vacant, which I hope his Majesty will be graciously pleased to give to Lord Shannon. This is what I understood was proposed by Lord Townshend, and approved of by his Majesty. It would in some sort be a reward for the very important services, and very effectual support, which that noble Lord has uniformly given, since he first engaged to take a part with administration.

"I was a good deal surprised to-day by a visit from Lord Irnham, who came to dine with me. When dinner was over, and the rest of the company retired, he told me that, as he was going to England, he came to receive my commands. He had heard of Lord Belvidere's death, and he hoped there was no impropriety in putting in his claim to the Muster Master General's place. He

then gave me an account of many things that had passed between him and Mr. Greenville, when that place was vacant on the death of Lord Charleville, and during the Lord Lieutenancy of the Duke of Northumberland. He said he had afterwards renewed his claim when the Duke of Grafton was minister, and that he had never lost sight of it, having, as he apprehended, a promise of it. I told him I was an entire stranger to any thing that might have passed either between him and Mr. Greenville, or between him and the Duke of Grafton, relative to that employment, or, indeed, any other. I told him that, soon after my appointment to this government, I understood that on the decease of Lord Belvidere, who was then in a declining state of health, Lord Shannon was to succeed to the Muster Master General's place. I added that I considered myself as pledged to Lord Shannon, in whose behalf I should interest myself most cordially; for I looked upon him as the most zealous and honourable supporter of his Majesty's government.

"I should not have troubled your Lordship with what passed between me and Lord Irnham if his Lordship had not pressed me very much to mention it; but I trust it will make no alteration of his Majesty's gracious intentions in favour of Lord Shannon.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*November 24th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have not words to express how much I am obliged to you for the very kind and friendly offices which you so powerfully exerted, in order to obtain his Majesty's consent to the very important arrangement which I took the liberty of submitting for his consideration.

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"If any thing can make me amends for the many anxious hours which I have passed, it is the satisfaction of thinking that I have had the means of doing his Majesty more essential service than I ever expected to have done. I consider the abilities of Mr. Flood as the greatest of acquisitions; and, though they may appear to be purchased at no easy rate, yet, I am inclined to believe, in the course of time, they may prove the means of saving much greater sums.

"I cannot take leave of your Lordship without my warmest acknowledgments for all your goodness to Sir John Blaquiere, who stood greatly in need of such a cordial to support him. He occupies an office that has exposed him to every species of envy, and detraction, and calumny; which have been the more cruel and malicious, as he had done nothing to deserve them.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*November 24th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You must allow me to trouble you with my most cordial acknowledgments for the many instances of attention and friendship which you have shewn me. They were not, my dear Lord, thrown away upon me; for, though I was not on the spot to be witness of them, yet Sir John Blaquiere was too much my friend not to do justice to that seasonable support and to that kind interposition of which I stood so much in need, in the late disputes between the Commander in chief and myself.

"I have the satisfaction to think that what has passed between General Elliot and me, was not owing to any pique or jealousy on my part.

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"On the other hand, if the General did not see things in the same light that I did, I am ready to do him the justice to believe that, however his judgment might be misled, his zeal for his Majesty's service is inferior to no man's; though his warmth of temper may, sometimes, carry him too far. . . .

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, December 14th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—Lord Rochford much surprized me yesterday with a summons for this morning, to meet General Elliot, at his office, by his Majesty's command. I could not help expostulating with his Lordship upon the matter. I told him that I did not think myself well used; that there seemed to me to be an obvious design of making me a principal in the question; which would be wanting attention to your Excellency, and very injurious to me. I said that I was not your representative, nor your delegate, but your servant; a faithfull and a devoted one, and so should remain to the latest moment of my breath. I did not want, however, to shrink from this business, dangerous and delicate as I knew the service was; and, to shew his Lordship that I was in earnest, I did not decline the meeting, on condition that he would warrant that in any thing which passed I should commit myself alone and not sacrifice any other person. Lord Rochford seemed entirely satisfied with this reasoning, and told me General Elliot was not to know that it was ap-

pointed by the King's command. Accordingly, at eleven to-day, I went. Lord Rochford opened the farce, and, in a gentlemanly and familiar way, wished to have a hearing of the parties, that conciliatory means might be adopted. The General then stated his grievance. More artfully and ably I never heard any thing done before. He was prolix in every point that tended to his purpose; and strong (much more so than ever I heard him) upon those which were important. He declared that he would absolutely and entirely separate the military from every other department; that he would, in *every* instance, be the first mover of business with the Lord Lieutenant, and receive personally and finally from him his decision and pleasure. He declared that he would not receive a letter from the secretary or from the office; and that, in all matters of favor, he would be the only man to recommend. Thus the army might look up to him for protection, and to him alone. In the same breath he declared he did not wish to take from the Lord Lieutenant the patronage of the army; and added in conclusion, that all business must be done agreable to precedent, that he held a precedent in his hand which was unquestionable, and which he would abide by. A sulky silence would ill have become me, and I took your letters for my text.

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"Your letters alarmed the General, when I read them as if he had never heard them before; particularly that which your Lordship last wrote to him.

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"I said that the paper he had in his hand was not a precedent but only a casual accidental performance; that precedents could only be had in the offices; that your Excellency relied upon them, and that you meant to make them the rule of your conduct.

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"I said that, although I knew that precedent was one among other reasons with your Excellency for not giving up into the hands of the Commander in chief the patronage of the Irish army; yet, paramount to this, was the consideration of the impossibility of complying with the General's claims, consistently with the constitutional government of the country. Every thing, I added, which could be done, I believed it to have been your intention to do, to accommodate the General; and that you meant to refuse him only what it was impossible for you to grant. It was impossible that the civil and military branches of the government could be entirely separated. Again, the Commander in chief could not, *as a claim of right*, correspond directly with the Lord

Lieutenant, without doing manifest indignity to the heads of the Law and Church.

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"If this principle of universal accessibility was admitted, there would be an end to the security of the King's representative in Ireland; and, however lightly your Excellency might, peradventure, be disposed to treat the matter in your own case, it was an immunity you might probably think yourself bound to transmit inviolate to your successor.

"Lord Rochford said that when the King had read your Lordship's letter to me, he had positively declared that you ought not to break through established forms and customs; that he could but entirely approve of your Lordship's conduct. But, says Lord Rochford, the King charged me particularly to tell you, General, that he knew Lord Harcourt would make your time agreable, and do every thing which possibly could be done to accommodate you in what you wished at your return. 'No,' replied the General, 'that is too loose, it won't do.' He, the General, said he had never understood before that his Majesty had so entirely approved of your Lordship's conduct; that it was his business to submit; but that he would not go to Ireland. He could do the King no service there, and that it was meant to crush him against the wall. Both Lord Rochford and

I then urged him to consider of the state of things; that he was really not reasonable. He seemed to have been convinced upon the arguments; but said, that, things being so, he would not go without his Majesty's positive commands; and that if, after all, he was forced to take upon him this ungracious command, he would not meddle with the economy nor with any of the material concerns of the troops. He said that at exercises and reviews he would just give his opinion or his orders upon what might appear to him to be amiss; and added that that was just the only insignificant business of the army.

"Upon this we parted; the General and I on the most cordial terms; and, which I mention as not an unimportant anecdote on the event, Lord Rochford immediately sent to fetch me back, and expressed the utmost amazement at the General's behaviour; he declared him unreasonable, impracticable, and wrong headed, beyond any thing he had ever seen before. He began wondering who the man would be that the King should name for this command. Indeed, as the General had made a positive and express declaration that he would not go, and had desired it to be reported to the King, I had not in my mind an idea of such a possibility. When, therefore, Lord Rochford sent for me at three o'clock, and acquainted me with the King's determination, I had some

doubts about believing it. In as few words as I can put it, the amount is this; the King thinks the General the most absurd and impracticable man that breathes; his Majesty was sensible of the propriety of my conduct in the conference this morning, in particular that I was so ready to speak and so openly. He thinks that it will not be possible for you to go on with the General, neither does he desire you should for any length of time; but go he must, though it were for to return in a few months; for, added his Majesty, if, upon this particular occasion, General Elliot did not return, no general officer in the army would accept of the command. To-morrow, Lord Rochford sends for the General to acquaint him with his Majesty's pleasure."

Letter from General Elliot.

FROM General Elliot to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 16th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—Could I imagine it was not well known how far from any gratification it is for me to be so long absent both from your Excellency's presence, and my duty to his Majesty's service, I should be ashamed at this time to offer my excuse in a letter dated at London.

"As I now see clearly my affairs will be finally arranged in about six weeks, I will only crave your Excellency's indulgence to dispense with my attendance until the beginning of February at furthest. This term will suffice to complete my preparations for an entire transplantation into a country where I am sure to thrive as long as it remains under the happy influence of your Excellency's government. My application on this account is not the only motive for writing at present, I am much more interested not to lose time in returning your Excellency my best and sincerest thanks for the recommendation to the government of Derry. It is not the recommendation alone that I am thankful for, but for the noble manner of doing it, and for the obliging certificate

attached to it. This his Majesty was graciously pleased to inform me of this day in the closet. At first sight it appears scarce possible to make suitable acknowledgments for such a favour; but I am not the least apprehensive but that my earnest endeavours will be attended with success; well knowing that a strict obedience to your Excellency's commands in the case of his Majesty's army, will be accepted as the most grateful tribute and properest return for the steady protection your Excellency bestows on the military and every other important branch of his Majesty's service.

"Before I left Ireland, my Lord, you seemed to wish that the prices of infantry commissions should be re-considered; in order to put a final stop to the frequent shameful bargains which, it is pretended, are occasioned by many commissions bearing a proportionable value to their real value. Should this continue to be your Excellency's intention, I would ask permission to consult my Lord Barrington and General Harvey; who may, perhaps, know the King's pleasure, and more readily point out such a mode as will best comprehend the British and Irish establishments.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE.

"*December 17th*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—How happy am I to be able to acquaint you that every thing is so far settled with General Elliot that he means to set out the latter end of next month, and, if I can judge from his present language, perfectly disposed to act with the greatest harmony and confidence.

"Before the General had had his last audience of the King he met Sir John Blaquiere at my office, by appointment, when we all discussed the whole matter in the most friendly manner. I am persuaded nothing but Sir John's friendship to me would have induced him to assist at such a conference; but I should do injustice, where I most meant to do justice, if I did not acquaint your Lordship that nothing on earth could be more proper than Sir John's behaviour. He spoke out like a man whenever called upon to give his own opinion, but so cautious of committing you that he would not even put the natural interpretation

upon the sentiments your various letters have contained, but left the words to speak for themselves. Indeed your letters were so clear and explicit as to need no explanation. It is with pleasure I can add that, by the present appearances, the old friendship between the General and Sir John will not have suffered by the unpleasant altercation that has subsisted. The little share I have had in this, and the small pains I have taken, are more than amply compensated by having the satisfaction to know that both parties have not been displeased with my interference.

"I laid your last private and secret letter before the King, and his Majesty expressed a good opinion of Lieut.-Colonel Harcourt, yet mentioned his being too low in the list of Lieut.-Colonels to obtain the rank of Colonel; and that the idea of selling a regiment is so revolting to all military ideas that your Excellency cannot be surprised at his Majesty's not only not listening to it, but disapproving of it.

"The King, in consequence of your Excellency's recommendation, has been graciously pleased to appoint General Elliot to the government of Londonderry, and his Majesty means to attach that government to the Commander in chief of the troops in Ireland, until Kilmainham hospital can be obtained. The King wishes your Excellency will try whether General Dilkes cannot be persuaded to exchange governments, considering the difficulties he is under. After the serious inquiry into the state of the hospital it is imagined he would be accommodating. Allow me to finish this by begging you to excuse the blots, as I had not time to write it over again, and to believe me with unfeigned regard, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*December 22nd*, 1774.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship has done wonders; greater indeed than I imagined any man could perform, for you have brought General Elliot to a proper sense of his situation. I have received a very obliging letter from him, from which I cannot but conceive the fairest hopes of our being upon good terms. I can venture to assure your Lordship that nothing shall be wanting, on my part, to render his situation as agreeable and as honourable as can be desired for the carrying on the service with reputation and credit. The General has ten thousand good qualities, which were in danger of being lost by some very mistaken notions that had taken possession of his mind; to a degree that made it impossible to act with him, without making such concessions as must have thrown this government into the greatest disorder and confusion. The part which Sir John Blaquiere had to act was a very difficult one indeed; but he relied on your Lordship's candour, and the event has proved that he acted

with propriety, as your Lordship was fully satisfied with his conduct.

"I fear, from your Lordship's letter of the 17th, that his Majesty imagined I meant to recommend my son to succeed General Douglas, by purchase, in his regiment of Dragoons. It was by no means my intention; for, though my son has been a Lieut.-Colonel these ten years, yet, when I consider how low his name stands in the list, it would be an instance of the greatest presumption in me to make so unreasonable a request. It would be the more unpardonable in me, after the many distinguished favours I have received. I am so sensible, my dear Lord, of his Majesty's great goodness, that I am persuaded my son will, at a proper time, feel the effects of it; when his rank, his diligence, and attention to his profession, entitle, him to it. I can rely on your Lordship's friendship for explaining this matter to the King. Nothing in this world would give me half so much uneasiness, as to be thought capable of making a request which would lay his Majesty under great difficulties, and give him the most unfavourable opinion of me.

"I am &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*December 24th*, 1774.

"MY LORD,—The sun has not shone to-day on my endeavours. I was disappointed in seeing Lord North, and, having called on General Elliot, with an insignificant message, at Lord Rochford's request, I found the general in my room at my return, for he was not at home in the morning. Upon the result of a conversation of only a few minutes I heard him deliver himself in a manner which satisfies me that it will be absolutely impossible for your Excellency to carry on business with my most honoured and beloved friend. You will please to recollect, my Lord, that, some considerable time ago, I mentioned to you what Lord Rochford had said to me concerning the general's aid-de-camps; namely, that his Majesty wished he should have another. I replied that I was sure you would ever consider as a law any thing that his Majesty could desire; but I added, that it might be attended with some inconvenience to your Excellency to have the appointment made before the 25th of March, as the estimates had been laid before parliament for the two years

ending 25th March next. If, however, the King desired it to be done sooner, I wished to be informed, that I might acquaint your Excellency at once. I had heard no more, and thought no more, about the matter till yesterday, when Lord Rochford desired me to call on Elliot. I was willing to do any thing to oblige, and, perhaps foolishly, undertook to go and ask the general's wishes, and to explain what my Lord said he was not enough a military man to do himself. I told the general how the thing stood, and was much surprised to hear him say that he had understood, from either Sir Stannier or Lord Rochford, that the King had appointed him another aid-de-camp.

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"I told the general that such a step was, in the first place, not practicable without your orders; and, in the next, must involve your administration in the greatest difficulties, because estimates for the current two years were already made; and that it must make, surely, little difference to him to wait till the 25th of March. I ventured to say it might then be done; and that I could answer for your wishes to accommodate him, and to do any thing that the King desired. But the general was inflexible. He desired me to acquaint Lord Rochford with what had passed. This I declined to do. He said he should write to him this night himself. He said that he did not value the pay,

and that he would pay the aid-de-camp out of his pocket, but that, unless he was appointed immediately, he would not go to Ireland. Lord Rochford is in the country for ten days. I fancy he will scarce take any notice of the general's letter till he returns. Your Lordship will then probably hear more upon the subject.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"PRIVATE.

"*January 6th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have heard, with a good deal of uneasiness, that General Elliot has been very pressing to have another aid-de-camp ; in which if he should succeed government will be greatly embarrassed, as the faith of the Crown is in a manner pledged that the expense of the staff is not to exceed the present charge. It was an assurance of that sort that chiefly induced parliament to come into the late augmentation, in Lord Townshend's time, and the late arrangement and alteration of the staff, which his Majesty was pleased to approve of, was contrived to answer the estimates that were delivered to parliament. If General Elliot had been apprized of these facts, I have candour enough to believe that he would not have urged his request with so much earnestness as he has done ; because he must know, if his request is complied with, it would greatly embarrass my administration.

"If I was disposed to take any thing amiss of

General Elliot, I might have reason to complain of his taking any step tending to make an alteration in the staff without previously applying to the Lord Lieutenant; but I shall beg leave to observe, *en passant*, that on this occasion the general has given a very strong instance of the absurdity and impracticability of separating the civil from the military department.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, January 19th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—Every day brings me a fresh instance of all the difficulties there will be to encounter in carrying on business with our Commander in chief.

* * * * * *

"He has no quarrel, he says, either with Lord Harcourt or his principal secretary. The character of the Lord Lieutenant he not only respects but adores and reveres. Blaquiere is his ancient friend, and, with some allowances for the frailties of mortality, is an honest fellow; but the office he contends with, and whilst he is called upon to serve his Majesty he will resist that. I told you, my Lord, that the King was satisfied with the impropriety of the general's insisting upon naming his second aid-de-camp at this moment; indeed the impossibility was so evident, that it was unnecessary to argue about it. General Harvey and Lord Rochford seemed also sensible of it; they yesterday told me that General Elliot had acquiesced to the particular situation of the case,

and was contented to postpone the nomination of his second aid-de-camp to the 25th March. Provided, that is, that Lord Rochford or Sir Stanier Porter should inform him, in writing, that he might then declare the nomination.

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"His Lordship further informed me that the King had seemed disposed to give him directions to write to your Lordship, to desire such a pledge might be given to the general. There was no longer room to hesitate.

* * * * * *

"I told my Lord Rochford in plain terms that it would be such an insult upon you as I did not believe you would bear; such a one, I would venture to assert, as had never before been put on any man in your station. If you thought proper to adopt the measure you would signify your intentions, but that to force you to pledge yourself by such a kind of promissory note was a doctrine new, I fancied, to Lord Lieutenants. I added that I had an idea that it would be impossible for you to submit to it.

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"Lord Rochford and I are great friends; and I am confident there is no man wishes you better; nor would he willingly do any thing unacceptable to you.

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"I fancy now you will not receive the proposed letter. If you had done so, my small portion of understanding tells me there had been no alternative for your Excellency. You would probably have desired his Majesty's permission to return to England, or you must have requested that the general should be removed.

* * * * * *

"I went to the House at three, where Lord North presented at the bar all the American papers, moving for a committee of the House to take them into consideration on this day sennight. Mr. Burke made some objections to their being *extracts* and not entire. Nobody else said ought, which I augur to be a capital victory; for, unquestionably, the witholding the fullest information that could be had on such a crisis as this, was a matter on which administration must have been run hard. To-morrow Lord Chatham is expected to thunder in the House of Lords. . . ."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, January 20th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I was surprised when Lord North told me this morning the plan that had been adopted last night in the Cabinet, with regard to the embarkation of troops for America. He

seemed, indeed, to be doubtful about the transaction; and I soon convinced him of the illegality of what they had done. He requested me to go to Lord Rochford and set it right.

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"I found that Lord Rochford had, by the King's command, consulted General Harvey and General Elliot on this business. They had decided to draft the Irish army in the manner signified to your Excellency by Lord Rochford's official letter of last night. I told my Lord Rochford that he had put his name to an order that he could not justify, and that it might not be in your Excellency's power to obey. I reminded him that it militated directly in the teeth of the King's message to the House; which message had been consolidated into a law; and that you could not draft any part of the 12,000 men which were by that law pledged to the country. To meet the exigencies of the case, I proposed that your Excellency should have so many men sent from hence as you might want to replace the precise numbers of those you should draft. This I urged with my best might, and that a messenger should be sent with the intelligence, in order that you might be acquainted with it before you should be drove to acknowledge the first order. Lord Rochford and General Harvey, whom I saw together, acquiesced immediately in the thing. Lord Rochford went directly into the King. His Majesty assented to the proposal, and, if your Excellency agrees, nothing now remains but that you should ask that the 19th regiment, or such part of it as shall be necessary to complete, or rather, to replace, the numbers deficient on the establishment, may be sent to Ireland; so that they may land at Donoghodee before the others embark at Cork.

"As I take it, the state of the Irish army stands thus:—

Numbers within the Kingdom . .		13,474
3 Regiments Foot to go . .	1,431	
1 Regiment Light Dragoons .	177	
Drafts from each Company 1 man for 20 Regiments . .	200	
8 men a Troop to be drafted to the 17th Dragoons . . .	48	1,856
		11,618

So that there will be a breach of the law to the amount of 382 men. But if the 3 Companies in the Isle of Man are sent to Ireland, as I understand to be the intention, there will be then 142 men to be deducted from the 382. Still there will remain a breach of 140 in the numbers limited by law. This may at first sight appear trifling; but, I ask, where will be the security for that country, if once the precedent of an infraction were made, though it were for ten men only? . . . ."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, January 25th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I waited this morning three hours for the sake of three minutes' conversation with Lord North. I found him in a hurry dressing for Court. He had not a moment to spare, and desired me to talk French on account of the servant who was in the room. I told him, that if I was not exceedingly pressed from Ireland, I should not come in the manner I did, to intrude upon him at a time when I saw him so *accablé* with his American affairs. I urged upon him, with all my might, the absolute necessity there was to bring Mr. Flood's business to a conclusion. My Lord Clare, I told him, had perhaps not rightly understood that the chief Chamberlain's office was one that was given for life; but that, if Lord Clare should be disinclined for it, I had reason to think Mr. Jenkinson would not refuse it.

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"With his usual apologies, which were very friendly, he told me I knew their American affairs were now at a crisis, and that he had less time than ever to think of any thing else. Upon the subject of Mr. Jenkinson, he said, I knew his opinions, and he repeated them, but that he would speak to Lord Clare this day again in the House.

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"I asked leave to call upon him in the morning, I shall be there at ten.

"As I was driving home in a coach I saw, methought, Mr. Flood in the streets. Mr. Jenkinson, with whom I dined yesterday, told me he had heard from a friend at Bath that he was grown quite outrageous. I sent to inquire at his late lodgings if he really were in town, and finding it to be so, I wrote a civil note to Mr. Flood that I had not known till that moment that he was arrived, and begged to wait on him in the morning if he could be at home at eleven. Within these few minutes I have received a verbal answer, by a footman, that he cannot possibly be at home at the time mentioned. What does your Lordship think of it?

"I am ever unalterably and devotedly

"your faithful humble Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, February 2nd*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—.... Having attended by appointment yesterday at Lord North's, I was shewn into a room with Lord Clare, who was soon called into the closet, and dismissed at the end of about an hour. I was then admitted, and found that

Lord Clare had been inflexible. He had refused the office of chief Chamberlain with a salary of £2,600 a year for life. He said that, if it was to make so much clamour in Ireland, he could not bring himself to encounter it now at his age, and with his declining health. In short there was an end to Lord Clare. My Lord North seemed a good deal concerned; he said he had done every thing he could.

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"He seemed very truly sensible of the whole extent of your services; and as to your budget of recommendations, he, better than any body, knew there was not eighteen penny worth of advantage asked for any friend or connection of your own upon earth. So true was this, and, at the same time, so incredible, that I said I should take the liberty to advise two or three 'five hundreds' for some friends, in order to shew the difference, and establish the merits of all the rest. My Lord was well satisfied with it all, he knew it well, but what to do in the present emergency was the question. He was to speak to Ellis again to-day, but seemed without hope from that quarter, on account of the enmity between the Floods and Agars.

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"As to Mr. Jenkinson, he has already the reversion of a very great office; and, if this independent situation were proposed to be added as

well, Lord North did not think the King would consent. Mr. Jenkinson, from principle, education, and practice, is so strongly attached to the Crown, that I could not help observing I thought it altogether impossible the matter should make any alteration in his conduct. Lord North then threw out the idea of giving Mr. Flood this same Chamberlain's office for life, 'but for life,' says he, 'you probably would not choose he should have it.' The offer was precisely what I wished, but I thought it necessary to suppress my feelings, until I had put this matter upon paper to be submitted to your Excellency; so I avoided giving any answer.

"My Lord Clare did, I find, accept this same office from the King, but then flew off again.

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"In order to judge properly upon this business, your Lordship will recollect that, if Mr. Flood had not himself laid his finger upon this same Vice Treasurer's office, he would have a right to think himself injured in not having been appointed to the Provostship, under those general assurances which, he says, were given him of succeeding to the first vacant office without exception.

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"He already has an office for life so it rests with your Excellency to superadd, and to get him to accept of, some emolument during pleasure;

otherwise, the Lord have mercy on your administration!

"It is necessary for me to state all these things with freedom. The case is too critical and serious to require apology. Your judgment must determine. But, at this great distance from you, I have to submit whether it might not, on the whole, be advisable for you to empower me to decide upon such plan as may be best practicable at the moment, and which, in the end, may best answer your purposes and the good of the King's government. Always understood, when I say this, that your Excellency will furnish me with your sentiments, at large, upon each proposition; in order to enable me to adopt, in the first instance, what shall appear to me to be most agreeable to your wishes.

"The expense of all these things is much alike; I can have nothing further to add; I shall wait with impatience your orders, by return of the messenger.

"I am to thank your Lordship for condescending to acquaint me with the contents of your letter to Lord Rochford, on the old subject of the general's aid-de-camp. The last you wrote me, and which I put into Lord Rochford's hands, has entirely satisfied his Majesty and Lord Rochford. The King does not desire it should be done sooner than the 26th March. I believe the general is

satisfied too, but I do not know for certain, as I have studiously avoided talking to him upon it.

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"As, therefore, all these things seem to be well understood here, I shall, agreeably to your kind permission (which I conceive to be implied, though not positively expressed), forbear to deliver this last letter to Lord Rochford till I hear further from you.

"They are going to pass some bills (in order to quiet people's minds at home respecting our West India trade) to give bounties for the importation of staves and lumber, to such places as might else be undone by the American non-exportation agreement. Lord North seems well-disposed to include Ireland. I, therefore, desire to request your Excellency to be so good as to inform me what other objects, besides staves, you may think it would be necessary to enumerate for Ireland, and the amount of the bounty. . . ."

From Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, February 3rd*, 1775.

"IT is yet a secret, my Lord, but I know it to be the intention of sending, forthwith, as Major-Generals to America, Howe, Clinton, and Burgoyne. I have a shrewd guess that Amherst has

declined the chief command, but only conjecture it; and I think that peradventure Monckton may go. It is more than probable also that Burgoyne's regiment may cross the Atlantic; of which, however, there is not yet a whisper, but it is so possible that I think the Colonel should be informed of it, if you think it not improper.

"I am, with everlasting and the most faithful attachment, your obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*February 6th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I am, in this private and confidential manner, to acquaint your Excellency that, in order to fill up the vacancies with more speed, his Majesty is pleased to grant you a discretionary leave to connive, on the present emergency, at the regiments that remain in Ireland taking Irish recruits.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"PRIVATE.

"*March 8th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I found myself, this morning, under the indispensable necessity of sending the enclosed paper to the Commander in chief, in order to ascertain and establish the mode of conveying my orders to him. The general has declared to Mr. Waite an unwillingness to receive any orders without my signature; and that he should consider such as might be signified to him by my secretary for the time being, only as notifications; to which, however, he should not refuse paying obedience, till such time as he could learn from me whether they had been issued by my direction. I thought it extremely material to make the Commander in chief acquainted with my intention of adhering strictly to the usual official methods of transacting business in former administrations. Whatever his ideas might have been before he came over, I was in hopes that a thorough inspection of the office books might have convinced him of the impracticability of

carrying on business, if the Lord Lieutenant is debarred from the discretionary power of issuing his orders either under his own signature, or by his secretary for the time being. The experience of more than two years and a quarter has convinced me of the necessity of exercising this right, for, in many instances, it is impossible for the Lord Lieutenant to sign the orders that may be proper to be sent to the Commander in chief. The office books here have been kept with the greatest regularity. They plainly shew what the practice has been in former administrations, and in the earlier times of this government.

"I shall trouble your Lordship, to-morrow or next day, with a number of proofs, that your Lordship may see I have not taken this step without very sufficient grounds to justify it. I shall trouble you with several copies of letters that were issued under the Lord Lieutenant's signature; and of many others, of equal importance, that conveyed the Duke of Dorset's orders to Lord Rothes; as also the Duke of Bedford's orders to his Lordship, by their respective secretaries for the time being; and to which I have no reason to think his Lordship refused paying due obedience.

"The general desired my leave to transmit the paper I sent him to England, that it may be laid before his Majesty. I told him, by all means,

for, if he had still any doubts, it might be the properest step he could take. If I had not seen the absolute necessity of bringing this matter to an issue, I should have avoided taking any step that might give his Majesty one moment's trouble or uneasiness. To whatever it may be his Majesty's pleasure to determine, it will be my duty to submit most cheerfully, so long as I have abilities and health to serve him, and so long as his Majesty shall think fit to employ them; and, permit me to add, so long as I am able to support the dignity of my high station and of my own character.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF THE PAPER OR ORDER REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE LETTER.

(Delivered by Major Buchanan to the General.)

"*March 8th*, 1775.

"WHEREAS it hath been the practice, for a great number of years past, to signify many orders of his Majesty's government in this Kingdom to the Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces here, by letters from the chief secretary for the time being; specifying particularly therein that such orders are so signified by Command of the government, and it being absolutely necessary, not only for the convenience and ease

of the government for the time being, but for the more ready dispatch of military business, which, of late years, is greatly increased, that this practice should, in many cases, be continued. We do hereby signify to you, That it is Our intention, *in such cases as we shall judge to be proper*, to cause our orders to be signified to you, in our name, by letters to you from our chief secretary for the time being. Which Orders you are to consider and observe in like manner as you would do if the same were signified to you under our own signature.

"Given, &c.

"By His Excellency's Command,

"(S.S.) THOS. WAITE."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, March 18th*, 1775.

"My Lord,—.... I now conclude with two words, to let your Lordship know that Messrs. Nesbits have handed in charges to the treasury here of no less than £10,000 for the expenses of passing the gold coin. The charges were disallowed, because England does not mean to pay the expense of the Irish gold, beyond exchanging light for heavy coinage. The further expense is a contingency that will naturally fall upon our exchequer. I was desired to acquaint your Excellency that the whole contingent charge upon the English five millions comes but to twenty-eight thousand pounds; from whence people here do not scruple to say that £10,000 for Ireland is the most iniquitous charge that ever was heard of. I was desired to give you this hint that you may direct the account to be sifted and examined as it ought, whether in Council or elsewhere, before it be allowed to pass.

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"I am, with eternal attachment and respect, your Excellency's devoted and faithful servant,

"J. Blaquiere."

Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"*March 23rd*, 1775.

"My Lord,—If I have deferred answering your Excellency's first private letter of the 8th, it was owing to the King's deferring to give any answer or opinion until he had received the precedents of your predecessors which you promised to transmit. They are since arrived, and on perusing them, his Majesty is convinced you have not attempted to introduce a new mode of proceeding, and his Majesty entirely approves your Excellency's conduct. It is his Majesty's wish, and he has not the least doubt that your Excellency will carry it out, that you should contribute every aid in your power, as far as the absolute necessary forms of office will permit, to enable Lieut.-General Elliot (whose zeal and abilities the King equally values) to promote and improve the discipline of the army. At the same time his Majesty has no intention to break into the line of your proper authority, and your Excellency may, therefore, continue to tread in the steps of your predecessors, whenever you shall think it necessary.

"I am, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE.

"*March 23rd*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I cannot send the public letter of this date without writing you a confidential letter, and enclosing you, privately, for your own information, a copy of the letter I write to Lieut.-General Elliot of this date; by which your Excellency will see the King approves his military capacity and intentions, but that he must, for the future, submit to any orders you think necessary to send through your secretary. Whether he will, or will not, time will determine, and, dare I take the liberty to speak the sentiments of a friend, I would let the affair work itself. Your conduct is according to order, and, with a very little patience, every thing will turn out right, as you are sure of being supported here. Your friend, Sir John Blaquiere, is indefatigable in promoting every thing that may either be for your interest or convenience, and he will do me the justice to say that I am not backward in forwarding your or his wishes. I will not bore you with any more professions or reflections, and, therefore, shall only beg leave to repeat that temper and patience will allow your friends here to set all this right, amongst which number allow me to subscribe myself, &c."

COPY OF THE LETTER TO GENERAL ELLIOT REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING.

"SIR,—I did not omit the very first opportunity of laying before the King your letter of the 8th instant, together with one of the same date from Lord Harcourt. Since the receipt of these letters Lord Harcourt has transmitted many precedents of his predecessors, concerning the directions to the Commander in chief of the forces in Ireland through the channel of various Lord Lieutenants' secretaries. His Majesty cannot, therefore, object, as novel, to his Excellency's following those precedents when he thinks it proper; but his Majesty is perfectly satisfied that you are actuated by your zeal for introducing a strict discipline in that part of his Majesty's army now in Ireland; and, therefore, it is with peculiar satisfaction I can acquaint you that our Royal Master throws not the least blame on your conduct.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Colonel Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, March 28th*, 1775.

"My Lord,—. . . . The Duke of Cumberland, whose condescending attention will probably ruin me if I stay here much longer, came to me yesterday to complain that there were now six months due of his pension ; which, he gave me plainly to understand, put him to great inconvenience. You may be sure, my Lord, I told him I should write to your Excellency of it immediately.

"My Lord North has, to my extreme joy, put all our Irish affairs into your friend Jenkinson's hands. This was the summit of my wishes ; for, with all his Lordship's best intentions, he is so straitened for time, I began to fear it might slip through his fingers. He has indeed so many more objects, so much more nearly concerning him, that it is scarce in human nature to suppose he could have done our affairs justice. I therefore, for some time past, have pressed Mr. Jenkinson, as the only competent person, upon him ; and happy was I to find to-day that all this is fairly delegated. Lord North will move the measure in the House, but Mr. Jenkinson prepares the bill.

Of the present state of these affairs in general, and as a sample of the intended mode of proceeding in particular, I send you the enclosed transcript of a clause of this glorious act of parliament ; which, I conceive, may now give your Excellency some pleasure. Should not you think it advisable, my Lord, that Mr. Jenkinson should hear from your own mouth, or rather, have it from your own hand, how much you think yourself obliged to him ? As in truth you most undoubtedly are, and will be.

"I am, ever respectfully and unfeignedly, your
"devoted and faithful Servant,
"J. Blaquiere."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"PRIVATE.

"*March 29th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—By the time this letter reaches your Lordship you will probably receive one from General Elliot requesting his Majesty's leave to resign his command of the forces in this Kingdom. The general desired me to second his request, which I thought very unnecessary and indeed improper, for reasons sufficiently obvious. The resolution taken by the general does not appear to be the effect of any sudden warmth or passion, but in consequence of the most deliberate and serious reflection, from which he was not to be diverted by any thing I could offer. He expressed his concern to find himself reduced to the necessity of taking a step that might appear disrespectful to his Majesty, which was the farthest from his thoughts; for, in fact, it proceeded only from a thorough persuasion of his not being able to do the King any essential service in the command he had been pleased to give him. He was pleased to express a personal regard and esteem for me, and to overrate any little civilities I may

have shewn him. I could only repeat what had been said by me on a former occasion, and express my concern for the steps he had thought proper to take. That concern would be much greater than it is if I was not conscious of having done nothing more than my station required, and what was absolutely necessary for his Majesty's service.

"I am, &c."

Letter from General Elliot.

GENERAL ELLIOT, having waited on my Lord Lieutenant, delivered to his Excellency the following copy of his letter of the 29th March to Lord Rochford :—

"My Lord,—By this day's mail I had the honour of your letter of the 23rd, and will not delay a moment to return my grateful thanks.

"Your Lordship will easily imagine I did not in the least expect my scruples would have any weight, when compared with his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's deliberate resolutions. My doubts were founded, my Lord, upon what I did, and do, feel; that his Majesty's army in this Kingdom cannot be regulated to the greatest advantage, unless the person who is charged with this important trust can enjoy, uninterruptedly, my Lord Lieutenant's confidence in the whole military department. This seems to me impossible whenever an intermediate hand is employed for conveying his Excellency's intentions to the Commander in chief, previous to any communication upon the several subjects, and exclusive of any representations which, in very many cases, seem unavoidable. It cannot be supposed but

that the man entrusted with the command of the army is more qualified for that employment, from his long experience of military duties, than most gentlemen in civil capacities. The thoughts of such gentlemen have been employed on other matters. And, from the duties of their office, they cannot possibly spare time even to trace an outline for the government of an army so important to this Kingdom, and so liable to derangement, if its various dispositions and movements are not daily attended by the most watchful eye.

"This, my Lord, is my general supposition upon which I ground my difficulties, and which appear to me so unsurmountable, that I have this day ventured to request my Lord Lieutenant would please to lay my case before his Majesty, and obtain his Royal permission that I may resign my commission as Commander in chief of his forces in Ireland. This application of his Excellency's I humbly entreat your Lordship would please to forward with your assistance, and that you will contribute still to maintain me in that degree of consideration which my most gracious Sovereign pleased to express for my zeal to his service.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Sir John Blaquiere :—

"*April 1st*, 1775.

"DEAR SIR,—The packet that is just arrived has brought me yours of the 27th of last month. Your conjectures were well founded as to the general's desiring his recall, which, for his sake as well as my own, I now hope he will obtain. Impressed as his mind is with the necessity of departing from the mode of doing business that has been so long practised here, I plainly foresee things would never be done in the manner the King has a right to expect. The general seems to have adopted his idea before he was sufficiently acquainted with the nature of this government; and to require, for his own security, what was never thought necessary under former administrations. He argues upon mistaken principles that lead him astray; for he will not consider the orders signified by my secretary as a sufficient justification of his conduct in case of accident. The Commander in chief is, certainly, a very high and a very efficient officer, but the Lord Lieutenant alone is responsible to the King and to

the public, and, therefore, ought to have every security his station can afford him.

"The experience of many years proves to a demonstration the necessity of adhering to official forms, in which the safety of the Lord Lieutenant principally consists. The office, in all its departments, may be considered as a faithful register of the different transactions, particularly in the late trial of his Majesty's right to the Phœnix Park, when the greatest advantages were derived from the office books. Where people have no precedents to direct them they must do as well as they can; but why quit the open road that is a good one for a new one that may prove more difficult? The general has a horror of all offices and official forms, and is averse to any concern with them. I am at a loss, however, to conceive how fleets and armies are to be commanded, and how Kingdoms are to be governed, without them.

"A desire to accommodate and make matters easy has made me go a little out of the way, as my good friend Lord Rochford wished me to do; for, otherwise, I should think I had done wrong in submitting to sign the general's minutes of the business he lays before me. He seemed to lay a great stress on obtaining the initial letter of my name to those minutes, for which the only precedent he could produce was a paper with the Duke of Bedford's answer to different articles signed at

bottom with the initial letter of his Grace's name. It was one of those papers of minutes transmitted from the office to the general that gave him, as I am informed, so much offence because it was not sent back, as another had been, under my own cover. In short there is no doing business with people that are captious, and always upon the *qui vive*.

"In conversation with the general he hinted at his note to General Harvey, which he took for granted I had seen. When I told him I had not seen it, 'has not Sir John Blaquiere communicated it to your Lordship?' I told him 'No,' for that you apprehended, and very prudently, it would be conveyed more properly through the regular channel. The general then lamented that Lord Rochford had not transmitted that paper, as it contained the summary of the concessions he expected to be made previous to his coming over. 'For,' said he, 'your Lordship would have given your answer, Yes, or No; if the latter there would have been an end to the affair, and I should have saved your Lordship and myself a great deal of trouble, without the risk of incurring his Majesty's displeasure.' It is very possible Lord Rochford either might not have seen the above letter, or, if he saw it, was not requested to transmit it to me. Besides, knowing how much his Majesty wished to see a good understanding prevail be-

tween the Commander in chief and me, it was natural for his Lordship rather to apply lenitives than to take any step that might increase the difficulties.

"I thought it was not worth while troubling Lord Rochford with any thing further on this subject, as I conclude the whole affair is, in a manner, over, and that General Elliot will obtain the King's consent to return to England.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, April 14th*, 1775.

"My Lord,—The King has consented to my agreement with Mr. Fox. Lord North is delighted with it. A better bargain was surely never made for the Crown. The creation of a new office, of two new offices, in fact, is thereby avoided. Mr. Ellis is to have the Pells.

* * * * * *

"We shall have a good deal to arrange with Mr. Fox's trustees and creditors, but nothing, I fancy, very difficult. As to the great and principal object of this great business, I will not even suppose that he will refuse this office, which, I fancy I may be allowed to say, he certainly asked from your Excellency; and particularly now, when it will come to him unencumbered with the odious consideration of having been the means of inducing any permanent expense upon the establishment. We shall dress it up in its best, depend upon it; and offer it to him through the medium of the Bishop of Chester. As, however, the *only* friend we can employ in this business is out of town, not to return for seven or eight days, you must keep your anxiety at ease, and your patience at work till he arrives. It would be folly to precipitate things now, or to put to the risk of a hasty or unguarded expression the anxious labours of so many months. I trust, in God, we shall have a fair issue out of them, and then indeed, the prospect will be pleasant.

"Lord North has asked me to come and stay with him a few days at Bushy, which I propose doing next week. I want, indeed, much to talk to him on Irish affairs, previous to the debate of Thursday sennight; from which (I do not mean only my talk, but that discussion) you may expect the greatest benefits to the Kingdom of Ireland. You will, enclosed, find a paper of accounts, which Mr. Jenkinson has asked for, to illustrate the point of our sugar trade. I have not a doubt the bill you desire on this subject will be obtained for you, though not this session. Indeed, I should not think it so advisable for Ministers here, nor so eligible for your Excellency on the other hand, to obtain it during the present session. My object is that it should be fairly and fully discussed in the House on the 27th, and that the Ministry should pledge themselves, to a certain degree, to bring it into Parliament the next session. This will put the measure out of all sorts of risks; and, according to my humble apprehension, will be far more eligible for your Administration. It

will hang something out for expectation, which will keep gentlemen in Ireland in temper; and, God knows, the make of man is such, that if it were all done now it is more than probable it would be forgot before our Parliament meets in the month of October. This is my idea of the sugars; the same holds for the white herring fisheries, as it will be a means of appeasing the stubborn jealousy of the Scotch. When they find we do not want to surprise nor precipitate, they will no longer obtrude their fears and terrors. I think we may get Ministry, I mean Lord North and Mr. Jenkinson, to pledge themselves to this course. You want nobody else. Lord George Germaine keeps as a *corps de reserve*, and will step forth, depend upon it, whenever he is wanted. I will take care there shall be no mistake in the orders.

"I have appointed Percy, and Sir Lucius O'Brien to meet me here at eight to-night; when I shall treat them, in the mental way, with as much fish, oil, and sugar, as they can desire. Sir Lucius works like a slave at it; I have been employing him these two days past in keeping some of our treasonable friends quiet in the House. It is from their intemperate zeal alone you have any thing to fear, lest they should persist in their endeavours to overload the cart, and put too much butter upon the cake. I find Sir L. has worked with some success.

"Lord Effingham wrote a foolish, or rather a high, letter yesterday, desiring leave to resign. I fancy that part of the requisition which states his wishes to quit his company will meet with no difficulty. Your Excellency knows my wishes in favour of Lieutenant Loftus; with a view to make the opening in your family for Lady North's kinsman; a promotion which at this time would be peculiarly desirable for the convenience of your administration. Yet, upon this occasion, I find myself bound to acquaint you that I have good reason to know the King would not be well satisfied with any arrangement but that of a regimental succession, now that the regiment is so soon to embark for American service.

"Should your engagements permit you to consider of Sir Stanier Porter's relation, Mr. Nesbit, for the colours, and that you saw no material objection to it, I shall confess his appointment would give me particular pleasure. Sir Stanier, in all this critical time, has been continually devoted to your Excellency, and a warm and a useful servant.

* * * * * *

"Should you not be able to appoint Mr. Nesbit, which I think more than possible, three ostensible lines upon the subject, such as I may send to Sir Stanier, may do as well as the Ensigncy, for the present.

"Lord Pembroke wishes his son not to be appointed before September.

"Mr. Knox left London to-day. You will wonder that, in a letter of so much business, I should think of crowding in such a foolish name. It is necessary, however, your Lordship should know that, about four months ago, he, among fifty others, made me some wild propositions about a peerage, which I promised to lay before you; I expected, indeed, then to have been in Ireland long before him. The story is not worth writing. His offers amounted to about half a seat in the House; you will get ten times better terms from as good men.

"Respectfully and faithfully your obliged and
"devoted Servant,"

"J. BLAQUIERE."

COPY.

"It is agreed between Sir J. Blaquiere and Mr. Fox, that, in consideration of a Pension of one thousand seven hundred pounds per annum[a], Irish money, to be granted to the said Mr. Fox, or his assigns, for the term of thirty-one years, Mr. Fox will resign the office of Clerk of the Pells.

"J. BLAQUIERE.
"C. J. FOX.

"*London, April 12th*, 1775."

[a] Divided into three terms, to enable Fox to sell them the easier.

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, Sunday the 30th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—. . . . I dined yesterday with Irwin at Lord George Germaine's. The general means to set off Monday sennight, that is the 8th May. You will find him perfectly satisfied with exactly the same forms used with Dilkes, the *entrée* to your Excellency alone excepted. This is precisely what one could wish. Any other mode would be impracticable, without making either the general or the chief secretary a cipher; either of which would be equally prejudicial to the King's service. The general is enchanted with the civility of your letter.

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"I am, with the unfeigned and sincere attachment, your devoted and most faithful and obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, May 30th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I was yesterday indeed very agreably surprized with a note from Mr. Broughton, acquainting me that the King had signed a warrant for my sister, Mrs. de Mearon's, pension. Lord

North, 'tis true, said something about it to me on Friday; but I was so agitated with the disagreable occurrences of that and the preceding day, that I took so little notice of what he said, as scarce to thank him for the obliging manner in which he expressed himself to me; indeed I did not know to what an extent he had pushed it.

"You will remember, my Lord, that so long ago as upon my first arrival I acquainted you with my having asked Lord North to give my sister a pension of £200 a year on this establishment; intimating (as I was well warranted to do, as you had recommended me for £1,000) that he might indemnify himself in the expence, by placing the same sum on the establishment of Ireland. There this thing rested, till upon my return from Switzerland, an opportunity offering, I desired him, or rather expressed a wish, that if he did this thing, and meant to oblige me exceedingly, I should like it were for as much as should bring £200 clear and nett of all deductions. You will, therefore, not wonder how agreably surprized I must have been to find that this pension is for £300 nett. I have not seen the warrant, but I understand it is made for about £390, more or less. It was meant to be attended with a circumstance still more agreable to me, namely, that it should be done for me without any load to your

government. Lord North told me on Friday that now the parliament had given some money (meaning the Buckingham house bill) he could readily do my sister's pension. I am confident he meant it in the manner I say, but it is done otherwise. There are people enough about him too jealous of me, and moved by reasons obvious and natural who have taken care to overrule that plan, so it is for a warrant on the Irish establishment.

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"I do not know if, at this particular time, a favor done to my sister be not of ten times more value to me than any thing done to myself.

* * * * * *

"I got, last night, your kind letter of the 24th, full of the most flattering expressions of your kind approbation of my successfull endeavors in the furtherance of your wishes upon the fishery and cloathing bills. They are in truth, my Lord, benefits of the most substantial sort, which will enrich Ireland, and perpetuate the remembrance of your name, and the services your administration has done to that country, whilst it exists as a Kingdom. . . .

"I am respectfully and faithfully

"Your devoted and most obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

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From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, Saturday night, June 3rd*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—Ever since ten this morning, and it's now eleven at night, have I been at Bushy. We galanted in the park all the forenoon, had company to dinner, and only went to busyness after tea. A harder nor a tougher bout I never had in my life; for every hour that this busyness is delayed a fresh difficulty arises, and I find myself standing single against all mankind. I never had so serious an engagement with his Lordship before. It lasted some hours, and the event doubtfull for the best part of the time. At length, however, our good stars prevailed, and I think the result of it is that he will send for Mr. Jenkinson to Bushy on Tuesday. This he has promised me to do, and I think he will offer him the Pells for life. Wednesday his Lordship comes to town. You can expect nothing from me worth hearing till that day.

"Ever respectfully and faithfully
"Your Excellency's devoted and obliged Servant,
"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*June 7th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The untoward and capricious conduct of Lord Clare has, in some measure, disappointed my most sanguine hopes of an arrangement, that, I may presume to say, would have been greatly for the advantage of his Majesty's affairs. I own I should be still more sensible of the disappointment, if I had not the strongest reliance on the kind assurances you have so frequently given to Sir John Blaquiere, of the most favourable disposition to make such an arrangement as might accommodate Mr. Flood, and make him a useful servant to the Crown. Was the ease of my own administration the only object, it would not become me to be so pressing as I am obliged to be on this occasion. The great abilities of this gentleman, and all the powers he is possessed of, have made him formidable to former administrations, and give him the capacity of being much more so hereafter. You will allow me, therefore, to say that his terms, however great and exorbitant they may appear, are little in com-

parison of the trouble he may give, or even of the expense that may be incurred on his account; if no method can be devised to engage his services. . . .

"I am, &c."

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Duke-street, June 9th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—You will scarcely believe that when once the difficulty of giving Mr. Jenkinson a situation for life was overcome, any other obstacles were to rise. So it is, however; two hours of the most serious conversation, which I have had this morning with Lord North, convinces me that, by the unlucky delays had in this busyness, the obstacles are almost become invincible; I never saw a man in such agitation. He spoke to me with unreserved confidence, but in a tone still more solemn than serious. He was to be tore to pieces for the business. No man before had been ever pressed to do any thing of the sort. He stated all his difficulties; that they were threefold. First giving up the Vice-Treasurership; next the placing Mr. Jenkinson in such an independent situation, which would set all the people about him soliciting for the same; thirdly, and this the strongest of all, the improper, the very high terms given to Mr. Fox.

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"He said he was undone by this busyness; he must go off; he could not stand it, meaning he

must resign. It was owing, I replied, to the unlucky delays which had bedevilled the busyness; if it had been done at first he would have heard nothing more of the matter.

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"I was obliged to tell him he spoke without information; 'Aye,' says he, interrupting me, ''tis that I complain of; information I must have, and information I shall write for to Ireland;' and when he had done, for I made it my study not to interrupt him, I replied that writing to Ireland was unnecessary, he need send nowhere; I had the vouchers in my pocket, grounded upon arithmetical calculation on which I should pledge myself, and that I should readily engage to satisfy him, if there was any certainty in numbers, or truth in facts. I said that the bargain was fair and adequate, and that altho' parliament should never do any thing to mend this or the Treasurer's offices, which, I believed, would be the easiest thing in nature, yet Mr. Fox had no more than that for which he gave a full value received. I should not even talk of the advantage this bargain had over the one I was empowered to make with Mr. Hamilton, which the King had seen, and by which there was a specific saving made to the Crown of £18,650, besides the change of a life which could not be valued at less than £5,000 more.

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"If my data are right, and they cannot be denied, a best life is worth, to buy it, 14 years' purchase; a term of 31 years is worth 15½ years' purchase; two lives are worth 17 years' purchase; three lives 18½ years. We all know, too, that there is such a difference between buying and selling an annuity, that it is almost infinite; for at the same time that it costs 14 years' purchase to buy, it can only be sold for six, seven, or eight years, at most. Take then the bargain to be made by two persons indifferent as to necessity, neither of them pressed by circumstances; the King, for example, wanting to buy an annuity of £2,000 a year for the best life, it will cost him 14 years' purchase, or £28,000; let it be £1,700 a year for the term of 31 years and it will cost £26,350, a difference scarce material; and this applied to the present point is supposing the office of Pells never to rise.

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"'Aye, but,' says my Lord, 'we know Mr. Fox can only sell his life for seven, eight years is the utmost for which he can sell his office.'

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"Put then, said I, every thing to the utmost disadvantage which the most hostile calculations can establish * * * figures will prove that the case will admit of a state advan-

tageous to government in a proportion as £36,134 is to £26,350.

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"My Lord was much struck with this reasoning. I put it down for him in writing; he has taken it with him to Bushy, what will be the end I know not. It is evident to me that our enemies, indeed they are no friends of his Lordship's, are turning heaven and earth to overset the measure; they are always at work, and poison his mind. No man was so bent against a purpose as when I met him in the morning. It amounted altogether to this: if you will force me, Mr. Blaquiere, by reproaching me with a breach of my word, and will not suffer this bitter cup to pass by me, it shall, on my part, be my care to do it in the most graceless manner I can. I will effect every delay, I will have vouchers, papers, accounts, correspondence, every thing to procrastinate. I shall gain time, and who knows what good or evil may not arise to prevent my doing it at last. I had, however, the satisfaction to see that I had softened his mind.

"Never had I before occasion to exert as I did every faculty of my mind. I was obliged to speak freely, but I did it, tho', without hesitation. It was no time to compliment. I am sure he took it well; we parted on terms of better friendship, I fancy, than we have ever been on before. I am sure

'twould require nothing more if there was no devil to whisper in his ear; but as it stands I expect the same battle again next Tuesday or Wednesday. I must stick to it, I shall make my face hatefull at their houses. Some of them, I am persuaded, think they'll make me pay for it in the Alnage. I expect it, but I am very well disposed to sacrifice something more than that upon the occasion. As I returned I called in upon Robinson; he asked me what had passed, I told him of the agitated state of mind in which I had *found* Lord North. It cannot be done, says Robinson; Mr. Fox's bargain cannot be supported. I answered that I found Lord North's mind made up to those sentiments when I went into him, but that I thought I had had the satisfaction to see him give them up.

"In the course of this short conversation, I had occasion to say to Robinson, as I had done to Lord North before, that so far from its being thought a bad bargain in Ireland, in your Excellency's last letter to me the only anxiety you expressed was a fear that Mr. C. Fox should endeavour to be off. 'Aye,' says Robinson, 'we must see if we can't get about him.' 'No, there I must necessarily interpose,' rejoined your secretary, 'Mr. Fox is pledged to me. I could not put up with it.' 'By God!' says Robinson, 'Lord North must resign, he must go.' 'He will prob-

ably not go alone, if he does,' was all that I answered.

"I meant to have sent this tedious and untoward account to your Excellency last night, but my mind misgave me. Unwilling to give you unnecessary uneasiness I was wishing and had some design of passing by this transaction till better matter turned up; but, upon consideration, I have not thought myself warranted to withhold so much important intelligence from you. What is to be the event, I don't know; the *pour et contre* are both strong, in their ways, but my opinion is, in the teeth of it all, that we shall, we must, we will, prevail, God send.

"Keene, who is a gossiper, but very much in Lord North's confidence, spoke to me upon the subject. I did not chuse to enter into particulars, but this much I was glad to tell him, that they were no friends to Lord North who advised or wished him to break this business when he was so publickly and solemnly pledged; it would be fair to add, nothing but keeping to his word will carry him thro' it.

"All the town, to-day, is full upon the American news; the 'Sukey' is arrived. It has been rather a bloody affair, but, since the troops stuck to their tackle, all is yet well. I'll get some extracts of letters for you in the evening. I am to dine with Lord Townshend; he is gone upon the

look out; you will have the best fruits of his labors.

"Respectfully, and most faithfully,

"Your devoted and obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Duke-street, July 11th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—When I wrote last night to your Excellency to desire you would be pleased to send me a recommendation for the Pells for Mr. Jenkinson, I ought to have asked, at the same time, for a letter also recommending the pension of £1,700 a year, for 31 years, for Mr. Fox. It escaped me, I ask pardon; I hope this may still come in time for the messenger; if it does not, it is just so much time lost, and it is my fault.

"Let me then request of you to send me an official to the lords of the treasury praying a pension of £1,700 a year, for 31 years, to the Honorable Charles Fox, to commence and bear date from the day of his resignation of the office of Clerk of the Pells.

"And, as Mr. Fox has acted very honorably in this affair; and, as he has signified to me his desire that the grant may be in several sums for the conveniency of better disposing of them; give me

leave to request that you would be pleased to send me one other letter recommending a pension of £1,000 a year, for 31 years, and another pension of £700 a year, for 31 years, to the said Mr. Fox; to commence, both of them (like the other), from the date of his resignation of the Pells; and, with your Excellency's permission, I shall deliver that letter which may best suit the temper of the time when they arrive, endeavoring to oblige Mr. Fox if it be practicable.

"I am, with eternal attachment,

"Your Excellency's obliged and faithful Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letter from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt:—

"SEPARATE.

"*August 1st*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—In my official letter of this date I have solely confined myself to what regards the Embarkation of the troops; but I cannot avoid accompanying those instructions with this separate letter, to acquaint your Excellency that the most weighty considerations render it highly advisable to strengthen the King's army in America, with all the re-inforcement that can be sent thither. This matter has been the subject of several serious meetings of his Majesty's most confidential servants; and they all have humbly submitted to the King their unanimous opinion, that two or three thousand men are essentially requisite to be sent with the utmost expedition to America.

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"It is not judged practicable at the present moment to spare any troops out of this Kingdom, there being only nine battalions of foot besides the Guards now in it. Nor is there time to draw any this year from Minorca or Gibraltar; so that Ireland alone can supply what is now so necessary

towards resisting the unnatural and open rebellion which exists in so important a part of his Majesty's dominions; and which requires every nerve of government to be employed to suppress it. His Majesty, therefore, has the strongest reliance that your Excellency will, with firmness and activity, equal to the present emergency, employ your utmost endeavours in promoting the measures the King has adopted; and that his loyal people in Ireland will, in their different stations, be animated and excited to exert their well known affectionate zeal and spirit in supporting his Majesty's Government in an exigency of such particular importance. It is an emergency in which all other considerations, of how much weight soever they are in themselves, and which would have been, at other times, strictly attended to, must and ought to yield to actual unavoidable necessity. The King finds himself obliged, for the good of his whole Empire, to take five regiments from Ireland before it may be possible to raise sufficient recruits to supply the deficiency; but, at the same time that this resolution is taken, arrangements are also made that the deficiency of the numbers in the army in Ireland will be of short duration.

"As for what regards the completing and augmenting the corps in Ireland, it will be the subject of another letter by this messenger.

"I am with the greatest truth, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*August 13th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—After the strongest instance of his Majesty's most gracious condescension to my request in favour of Mr. Flood, and the immense trouble your Lordship has had on that account, you will scarce believe when I inform you that he declined accepting the Vice-treasurership. I have had a great deal of conversation with him, at different times, in which he employed every art and insinuation to persuade me that, from his first interview with Sir John Blaquiere, the faith of Government had been pledged to him for the first great employment that should be vacant, except the Muster Master General's. He thought in fact he should have succeeded the late Provost, or should have been posted to some other great situation, that might have placed him upon an equal footing with the other great officers of the Crown, and have enabled him to serve his Majesty more effectually. He said he made no doubt of my kindness to him, and, therefore, could be under no apprehension of any thing that might happen to him during my administration; but who could answer for those that might succeed

me? They might treat him with less regard and attention, and dismiss him from an employment of a very precarious tenure without ceremony.

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"When, however, he perceived that all the art he had employed, and all the arguments he had urged, made no impression upon me, and that I represented to him the necessity of giving me a decisive answer whether he would, or would not, accept the employment that was offered to him; he told me that, in consideration of the great trouble I had had, and, to shew his very great regard for me, he was willing to waive his just claim to a more desirable situation, and to accept the Vice-treasurership, provided it was not to induce any additional burthen on this Kingdom. I told him it was but reasonable to suppose that such an arrangement as had been made to accommodate him could not be effected without some charge to the public; and that as Ireland was, on the one hand, to be benefitted by the arrangement, it was but fair this country should bear the burthen of it. I promised that I would make a faithful report of what had passed; but that, after the very extraordinary concessions that had been made, it would be indecent in me to importune your Lordship any more, in expectation of relieving this establishment at the expense of Great Britain. I could propose no such thing,

and, therefore, he might conclude there would be an end of the affair.

"I can account no otherwise for this very extraordinary determination of Mr. Flood's than as proceeding from the very high opinion he entertains of his parliamentary abilities, which may make him imagine that any concessions, even greater than those already made, would readily be submitted to on the part of government. It is still possible he may make some further proposal, and condescend to accept this great office, though I scarce expect he will take so prudent a part. But, at all events, it must be for his Majesty's service that this office may be kept open; as nothing is so likely to operate powerfully on some of the leading interests of this Kingdom; which makes me hope that his Majesty's government may derive no less advantage from Mr. Flood's refusal, than from his acceptance of the Vice-treasurership.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*August 21st*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that the different corps of cavalry and dragoons on this establishment begin to shew a most noble ardour for the American ser-

vice, of which I shall endeavour to make the utmost advantage. There have been so many applications for permission to go as volunteers, and to enlist in the regiments ordered to America, that it has been thought proper to restrain the numbers allowed to go abroad to 12 men per regiment of two squadrons, and to 18 men from the Royal Irish. The 12 out of the Blue Horse, now in Dublin, march out to-morrow morning. More offered their service, and expressed a concern that they were not permitted to go. I have sent out one of my aid-de-camps, and another officer in whom I can confide, to the different quarters of horse and dragoons, that this affair may be carried into execution in the manner the most agreeable to the officers as well as the private men of the different corps.

"The corps of Artillery, than which nothing can be finer, was among the first that manifested a most laudable spirit on the occasion. Between 40 and 50 of them have been very pressing to go to America; but, as the whole corps consists of no more than 200 men, rank and file, and that they have still 18 old men who are subsisted by the corps, and are, consequently, an incumbrance upon it, I was unwilling to weaken the corps of Artillery too much, and, therefore, have only consented to the enlisting of six of them into the 46th regiment that marched from hence this morning.

I have, however, some thoughts of permitting, as a matter of great favour, about 20 more to embark in the same service, as I do not apprehend they can be employed in any way more acceptable to the King.

"I hope what has been done will have the good fortune to be approved of by his Majesty. If, without doing any essential detriment to the horse and dragoons, and Artillery, we can furnish the American army with near 150 trained men, fit for Grenadier companies, I hope it will be deemed an essential service; more especially as it will, in a great measure, answer the purpose of drafting men from the other regiments to complete the five regiments ordered to embark by the 10th of September for America.

"Three young gentlemen of the College have determined to go volunteers with those regiments to America; which I should not mention if it was not to shew the spirit that begins to prevail.

"I should not do justice to the whole corps of Artillery, the officers as well as men, if I did not acquaint your Lordship that they wish for nothing more than an opportunity of shewing their zeal for his Majesty's service; and their readiness to embark in this or any other service, where his Majesty may think fit to employ them. I am inclined to flatter myself that the spirit which has already appeared in the army, will contribute not

a little to the success of recruiting the corps that are to be augmented in order to complete this establishment.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August 27th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The event which I suggested to your Lordship, in my letter of the 13th instant, is come to pass. Mr. Flood seems at present disposed to have some further talk with me about the Vice-treasurership. I thought it right, however, not to bring the matter to a conclusion until I hear again from your Lordship; lest any thing may have happened, in consequence of my letter, on your side the water, to create any obstruction in this business; though I must be candid enough to own that I am not in the least apprehensive that this employment will be disposed of, because it would deprive me of the means of making an arrangement that is likely to remove every material difficulty that can arise in the ensuing session of parliament.

"I am quite ashamed that your Lordship should have this further trouble after the extraordinary anxiety this affair has already given you; but I must beg you to consider that I have had to do

with a man who, though of the greatest consequence in this country, is, I am sorry to say, very difficult to deal with.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford :—

"*September 1st*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The enclosed letter, which I received from General Irwin, will explain, much better than I can do, the reasons that have prevailed on him to mention the particular circumstances of the 27th Regiment. Had they been known to him sooner I might have had better opportunity of knowing his Majesty's pleasure in due time. At all events, I think it my duty to acquaint your Lordship that, from the best accounts I can procure, neither the Lieut.-Colonel nor Major are, by any means, fit to be entrusted with the command of a regiment.

"I am, &c."

LETTER REFERRED TO, FROM GENERAL IRWIN TO HIS EXCELLENCY EARL HARCOURT, DATED 1st SEPTEMBER, 1775.

"MY LORD,—Notwithstanding I had resolved not to trouble your Excellency with any more memorials, from officers of the regiments under

orders for embarkation, to sell, yet I must once more presume, for the sake of the service, to trouble you. For the honour of the service I have refused several. For the safety of the service I must recommend it to your Excellency's consideration that Major Morris, of the 27th Regiment, may have leave to sell; as I think it would be highly improper, and might be injurious to the King's service, to run the hazard of his commanding a regiment in a critical moment. He came to me. He talked to me of buying. He then talked of selling. He then found fault with this most just and necessary war his Majesty is obliged to make against his rebellious subjects. Then, when I would have interrupted him, he thundered out a hundred Greek lines from Homer. He then talked to me out of 'Plutarch's Lives.' In brief, my Lord, he convinced me that he will be better out of the King's service than in it.

"I am extremely concerned that no purchaser can be found for Lieut.-Colonel Beckwith's commission, of the same regiment; for, besides his infirmities, I have his own word added to the testimony of other people that he is mad. Now surely, my Lord, both these field officers should not be permitted to go with that regiment.

"Since I began this, Colonel Darby of the 17th regiment has been with me humbly requesting your Excellency's permission to dispose of his

Lieut.-Colonelcy. I never saw the gentleman before, but he is in a most wretched state of health, overcome with the gout, and barely able to walk. He protests to me that he has been about to sell these three years, and that he shall only be put on board ship to die. I beg to know your Excellency's pleasure upon this officer. Be assured, my Lord, that the peculiarity of these cases is the only motive for my troubling you on a subject that I feel myself, in general, ill disposed to give countenance to.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*September 19th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency did me justice in believing that I would not dispose of the Vice Treasurer's place while there remained any hopes that Mr. Flood would accept of it. I trust your Excellency will be able to secure him, as the office still continues open and at his service. But Sir John Blaquiere will have explained to you that, if Mr. Flood declines it, I shall think myself at liberty to give it to an English Member of Parliament. When he was in England he understood the footing upon which I promised to recommend Mr. Flood. My British friends, although a little out of humour at the transaction, are reconciled to Mr. Flood; but, if he should decline, and another gentleman of Ireland should be proposed in his place, it would cause much displeasure, where it is of the utmost importance to the publick that good humour should prevail. The conduct of the British House of Commons towards the Crown has, for several years past, been so loyal, so steady, and, indeed, so disinterested, that it would be of the worst consequence to the King's affairs that they should

suppose themselves sacrificed to the importunities of any body of men in other parts of his Majesty's dominions.

"I have been in constant motion for some time past, and much hurried both in town and country, which has prevented me from giving that attention that I could wish to Irish business. Since my last return to London Mr. Robinson tells me that he has received a letter from Sir John Blaquiere desiring my opinion as to the manner of securing the Vice-treasurers for the future. Two methods have been suggested, viz^{t}, a fixed salary producing £2,500 a year clear in England, or a vote in Parliament to reimburse them for the fees which they lose by the anticipation of the bounties which are paid out of the revenue before it comes into the Exchequer. I have not yet had time thoroughly to consider these two methods, but I will send him over my determination in a few days.

"Mr. Hamilton, who has taken charge of this letter, is already so much obliged to your Excellency that I should be ashamed to mention his name to you again, did I not understand that your goodness in bringing him into Parliament was principally in order to have a fairer pretence for shewing further favours to him. Your Excellency need not be told how sensibly your kindness to him is felt by your most faithful, &c."

From Lord North to Sir John Blaquiere:—

"*September 19th*, 1775.

"DEAR SIR,—. . . . I suppose you have heard of Mr. Fox's difficulty about his pension. It seems that no man holding a pension during pleasure, or for a term of years, can sit and vote in Parliament without being liable to pay £20 a day. I do not know what method he will take to secure himself. As to myself I shall certainly not molest him, but he will be in continual danger of being disturbed, and, indeed, of being expelled, as by another Act no person in his circumstances is capable of being elected. In truth I believe he is utterly disqualified from sitting in Parliament by his acceptance of the pension. This you will keep secret, for, though I fear it will be known it ought not to be known by you or me.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*September 20th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship will excuse the liberty I take, of requesting the favour of you to let me know his Majesty's pleasure with regard to the Vice-treasurership. Parliament meets on the 10th October, which will very speedily bring the members to town. It would therefore be very inconvenient, at so critical a time, not to be in full possession of those powers which, I flatter myself, may be employed for the furtherance of his Majesty's service.

* * * * * *

"The Duke of Leinster has lately shewn a good disposition towards government.

* * * * * *

"What his expectations may be I do not know, but, if they prove as reasonable as I am told they are likely to be, there will be no great difficulty in gratifying them.

"Mr. Ponsonby continues canvassing for the chair, which he pretends to say he is sure of; but some of his most confidential friends are fair enough to own that he has little chance

of succeeding, and that the steps he is now taking have no other view than to make a parade of his interest, in order to obtain the more advantageous terms from government.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Roman Catholics.

LETTER from some of the principal Roman Catholics in Ireland addressed to Sir John Blaquiere, dated 30th September, 1775 :—

"SIR,—We flatter ourselves that the occasion the motives, and your goodness, will engage you to excuse this trouble. We are informed that an intended subscription among us, his Majesty's affectionate, loyal, and dutiful Roman Catholic subjects of his Kingdom of Ireland, to raise a fund among ourselves to be employed in encouraging recruits to enlist for his Majesty's service, was not judged necessary to government. Yet we are desirous to give every assistance in our power, and to give every proof of our sincere, affectionate, and grateful attachment to the most sacred person and government of the best of Kings; and to express our just abhorrence of the unnatural rebellion which has lately broke out among some of his American subjects. Impressed with a deep sense of our duty and allegiance, and feeling ourselves loudly called upon by every motive, and by every tie that can affect the hearts of good and loyal subjects, we take the liberty to make, on this interesting occasion, a humble tender of our duty, zeal, and affection to our good and

gracious King. We humbly presume to lay at his feet two millions of loyal, faithful, and affectionate hearts and hands, unarmed indeed, but zealous, ready, and desirous to exert themselves strenuously in defence of his Majesty's most sacred person and government, against all his enemies of what denomination soever, in any part of the world where they may be.

"And we desire to exert in an active manner a loyalty and an obedience, which, hitherto, though always unanimous, constant, and unalterable, from our particular circumstances and situation, have been restrained within passive and inactive bounds. A loyalty which, we may justly say, is, and always was, as the dial to the sun, true though not shone upon.

"And we take the liberty to request, Sir, that you will be so good as to represent to his Excellency our Lord Lieutenant, these our dispositions and sentiments, which we well know to be those also of all our fellow Roman Catholic Irish subjects, with our humble request to his Excellency that, if he thinks it proper, he may be so good as to lay them before his Majesty, &c.

"*Signed*, FINGALL, TREMBLESTONE, JOSEPH BARNWELL, BARTHOLOMEW BARNWELL, ROBERT CADDELL, JOHN JOHNSTONE, ANTHONY DERMOT, JAMES REYNOLDS, MYLES KEON, and JOHN CURRY."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October 6th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—As your messenger is in a hurry to return, I will only detain him long enough to mention to you in five lines a matter of considerable importance which has been in contemplation on this side of the water, but which will not be determined until we have heard your opinion. The necessity of having a large army early in the field, next spring, in America, on the one hand, and the difficulties which occur in recruiting the British troops, on the other, will make it expedient to employ foreign troops. The Duke of Brunswick and the Hereditary Prince of Hesse Cassel have made the King an offer of theirs. His Majesty, I believe, intends to take 4,000 of them into his pay, and wishes to send them into Ireland to replace about six regiments of British troops which he would, in that case, send to America. No step, however, of this kind will be resolved upon until he has received your Excellency's sentiments upon the subject, namely, what offence such a measure may give in Ireland, and what will be the best manner of carrying it into execu-

tion, if your Excellency should think that the Irish parliament may be induced to give their consent to it. Nothing can be more advantageous for the publick than such a measure, because nothing would contribute more to bring the war to a speedy conclusion. We, however, are not insensible, on this side of the water, of the difficulties it may meet with in Ireland, and are, therefore, desirous that the proposition should be fully considered by your Excellency before it is mentioned publickly.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*October 9th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have, at last, settled every thing with Mr. Flood, who accepts of the Vice-treasurership, which I have pledged myself to procure for him within the space of ten days, or a fortnight at furthest. He is at present a good deal out of order, and confined at home, which may prevent his taking any part in the business of the House for some days at least ; and perhaps till such time as the King's letter for his appointment to the Vice-treasurership shall reach at Dublin. Until that happens, your Lordship may conceive that his situation is awkward enough. Since I was born I never had to deal with so difficult a man; owing, principally, to his high strained ideas of his own great importance and popularity. But the acquisition of such a man, however desirable at other times, may prove more than ordinarily valuable in the difficult times we may live to see, and which may afford him a very ample field for the display of his great abilities. If he exerts them, as he ought to do, in the service of the Crown, I shall think myself amply re-

warded for all the pains I have taken to bring this long depending affair to a happy issue.

"I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my most grateful sense of his Majesty's unbounded goodness to me in so graciously affording me the means of making this arrangement. And I must ever acknowledge the various instances of your Lordship's good offices and generous support throughout the course of this very tedious business. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*October 11th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You will not be surprised to be troubled with this letter by a messenger, when it is to inform your Lordship that last night at 11 o'clock the House of Commons agreed to a resolution, upon a division of something more than two to one, declaring their allegiance to his Majesty, and their abhorrence of the American rebellion. Nor must you be surprised that the resolution itself brings you the first account of my having engaged in this serious matter. The truth is, that the determination upon it was only lately had.

"I saw the moment approaching when this important question would have been pressed upon

me by the opposition to the King's government in a way in which I should have had great difficulties in dealing with it; therefore it became absolutely necessary for me to take a decisive part.

* * * * * *

"The Presbyterians in the North, who, in their hearts, are Americans, were gaining strength every day; and letters wrote by designing men, whom I could name, from your side of the water, have been sent over to encourage Ireland to take an adverse part in the contest. These letters endeavoured to get at the people through their pride; telling them that the decision of the quarrel was on this side of S^{t}. George's Channel. I have, therefore, for these last few days been incessantly employed, and I have been obliged to conduct myself with all possible secrecy; not daring to trust too much to certain interested persons, whom it is not necessary for me, at this time, to name to your Lordship.

"The debate was conducted with great vehemence on the part of Opposition, which was composed of M^{r}. Ponsonby's and the Duke of Leinster's followings, and a few country members. Our majority consisted of the most respectable people, and the debate mostly, if not entirely, conducted by Sir John Blaquiere and M^{r}. Scott, whose zeal and whose abilities are so well known to your Lordship that I shall not add another word.

"What I have done I trust may be agreeable to his Majesty, *and I should hope of no small service to your Lordship's administration.* For my own part I shall confess to you that I feel such a glow of mind upon the occasion of the victory which has been obtained, that I have in my life never passed moments so happy as those have been since this question was determined. Our numbers were 99 to 49; in the House of Lords 31 to 5. For particulars I refer your Lordship to the minutes.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October 15th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency's messenger will bring you back the warrant for Mr. Flood's appointment, with my best congratulations upon the glorious opening of your campaign. I must add, likewise, my best thanks, for I am truly sensible of the great advantage that British government here may receive from this seasonable declaration of the Irish parliament. If I have any merit with your Excellency, it is in the real satisfaction I feel in every thing that contributes to the honor and comfort of your administration, and in endeavouring to promote them, as I shall always do from a principle of inclination as well as duty.

"Although your Excellency cannot yet have had time to consider, much less to answer, the question I put to you in my last upon the subject of foreign Protestant troops, I beg leave to trouble you with another upon the same subject. Does your Excellency think that the proposal of sending to Ireland 4,000 Hessians and Brunswickers would go down with the people if the expense is borne by Great Britain, and Ireland thereby

relieved from so much of her military Establishment? Perhaps the circumstance of taking the expense upon ourselves, while the Irish have the advantage of the defence accruing from this measure, may make it not unacceptable on your side of the water.

"The resolution taken by the North American Colonies not to furnish any provisions to the British army, the British dominions in Europe, or the British Colonies in the West Indies, will bring a prodigious demand upon Ireland. You will be called upon to supply food for a large army in America, consisting, perhaps, of 20 or 30,000 men; all the British Islands in the West Indies, as well as the Spanish and French Colonies in the same part of the world. This will probably raise the price of all provisions exceedingly, and may even render the supply of our own army and our own Colonies precarious. Some persons, alarmed at this prospect, have suggested the necessity of an embargo restraining the exportation of Irish provisions to the British army and dominions. But it is so much my constant wish to do what is the most acceptable to Ireland, and the necessity of being particularly attentive, in the present moment, to please the Irish is so evident, that I would not give any answer to the suggestions made to me till I had consulted your Excellency. If you apprehend that an embargo

will give much offence in Ireland I will not think of it. Although I am so immediately connected with the money transactions of this country, I will consent to the increase of expense rather than quarrel with the people of Ireland. Nothing would make me risk their displeasure but an apprehension of a total failure of supply; in which case I trust that an embargo would be justified even in their own eyes.

"I am, &c."

END OF VOL. IX.

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Harcourt.

The Harcourt papers.

VOLUME 10



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THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

VOL. X.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE matter in Volume the Ninth having exceeded convenient bounds, it has been found necessary to divide the Volume into two parts. For better convenience the second part is treated as a separate Volume, and is numbered and paged accordingly.

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Harcourt Papers.

THE following Letters form the continuation of Vol. IX., which, as has been mentioned in the Introduction, it has been found necessary to divide into two parts for greater conveniency.

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"MOST PRIVATE.

"*October 17th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The messenger who had the charge of your Lordship's letter of the 6th was detained many days at Holyhead, and only arrived here last night at 11 o'clock.

"The part which I have taken upon the opening of the session will, in a great measure, have anticipated your Lordship's wishes upon American affairs, and will satisfy your Lordship that I mean to take nothing less than an unequivocal part upon them.

* * * * * *

"I am highly obliged by your Lordship's kind attention, and his Majesty's goodness, in communicating to me, before it is put into execution, the plan for bringing to Ireland 4,000 foreign troops.

The magnitude of the measure is obvious; but before I can submit to your Lordship my sentiments upon the mode most eligible for carrying this scheme into execution, I must beg your permission to ask one question. Namely, whether it be intended that any foreigners are to be called to Great Britain, and stationed there to replace such troops from the British Establishment as his Majesty may think proper to send to America on the present occasion, or whether it is meant that foreigners should be brought into Ireland only? This is the main question that I have to propose and for which, that not a moment may be lost, I purposely send a messenger to your Lordship. He will return the instant you favour me with a line in answer; and I entreat that not a moment may be lost, as the House will be already engaged in the business in which this matter may be involved, even by the time I could have your speediest answer.

"Permit me likewise to request that you would let me know how the law or usage stands in England, with regard to the admission of foreign troops in times of exigency; and after what Parliamentary ceremonies, and whether by a message from the Crown to the two Houses of Parliament? that I may have some sound rule of conduct to direct me in the pursuit of any business dependent upon this measure. Nor must your

Lordship be surprised that I recur on this matter to you. The truth is, I say it with concern and with shame, that I know no one of those who have been called the ancient and confidential servants of the Crown, whom I should dare to trust on such an exigency, without a risk of having the measure defeated.

"Suffer me, my dear Lord, to repeat an earnest desire to have an instant answer to this letter; that I may not lose a moment in submitting to your consideration my humble opinion of the means which will appear to me best eligible for carrying into execution the plan which you have in contemplation.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*October 23rd*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The Irish messenger with your Lordship's kind dispatch to me from Bushy, of the 15th, is this moment arrived; and I am extremely happy to find that the conduct I have held has been so very acceptable to your Lordship.

"With respect to the idea of sending the Brunswick troops into this Country, and the other arrangements depending thereon, I shall beg leave to defer laying my sentiments before you in the manner you desire, until your Lordship shall have

favoured me with an answer to certain points which I requested in the letter that I sent to you by Toole, the messenger, on the 17th, and whose return I am impatiently expecting.

"Upon the other important point on which, with so much kindness and consideration, you have done me the honour to consult me, I shall scarce be able, at this moment, to give you that satisfactory and definite opinion which I hope to do in some days. Considering, nevertheless, the magnitude of an object upon which the subsistence of the American army and our Colonies depends, I shall not withhold, even for an hour, any information which I think may be of use, or which may throw any light upon the subject, for your Lordship's service.

"If this great dependence is to be had on Ireland, that you even doubt of getting provisions from any other place, it is with peculiar satisfaction I can tell you the harvest has been so good, and provisions of every kind are in such plenty, that there never was a more favourable time for your purpose. Corn of all kinds are in abundance, and potatoes, the chief food of the people, are a drug; they are now sold in the North for 4d the hundredweight. One would imagine the finger of Providence had interposed; they were never known at so cheap a rate before.

* * * * * *

"Your Lordship's kind attention to this Country, and to my administration, in every thing you say with respect to the embargo which it may become necessary to lay upon our Victualling trade, calls for immediate thanks. I must request some little time before I am able to enlarge upon it. I shall, however, not scruple at this moment to say that, if the necessity of the measure appears clear to your Lordship, I do not apprehend it will meet with more opposition than is common to the necessary measures of government, unless, indeed, people here should be brought to believe that these suggestions to your Lordship come from interested persons, Contractors with the victualling office, or any individuals whose private advantage was to be benefitted by the lowering of provisions here. In that case, indeed, an embargo would be considered as a particular injury to this Country, and the enforcing it might be productive of much clamour and inconvenience; but this, I am satisfied, your Lordship will never permit.

"Upon a supposition that it may become necessary to restrain within some bounds our export of provisions; it is my intention to cause to be prepared heads of a bill to enable the Lord Lieutenant and Council, for a limited time, to issue a proclamation, and to make the bonds legal which it will be necessary to take for the

provisions destined for the troops. This is a matter, however, which may take up some time, let me submit it to you, therefore, whether contracts should not immediately be made, especially for large quantities of corn and potatoes. This would, in some degree, virtually prevent their exportation ; and there is reason to suppose that those necessary articles may be had much cheaper at present than hereafter, when the very great victualling contracts at Cork, Waterford, Limerick, Drogheda, and Dublin, shall have raised the price of all provisions, in general, throughout the Kingdom. After considering a little time this business I shall not scruple to call upon the confidential servants of the Crown stating this matter as an exigency which might naturally arise in the present state of affairs, and not as any command which I may have received from your Lordship.

"Sir John Blaquiere had this morning a letter from Mr. Eden about a vessel called the 'Standcock and Adams,' which had been hovering in our Ports with suspicious appearances. The fact is true. There were grounds for suspecting the vessel, and I had her thoroughly searched before she left this Port, and attended off the coast by one of the armed revenue Cruisers. We could very ill spare the Cruiser, and I submit to your Lordship the necessity of having Admiralty Cutters or

Sloops of War stationed, one here, one at Cork, and one at Waterford, with orders to follow the directions of Government in such matters. I apprehend such vessels will also be wanted at Limerick and Belfast, if an embargo should be found requisite. We shall, otherwise, find it extremely difficult to stop laden ships from sailing.

"A thousand thanks, my dear Lord, for the kind manner in which you expedited Mr. Flood's business. No man can be more truly sensible of the many instances of your attention and friendship than, my dear Lord, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October 24th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The zeal which your Excellency has shewn for his Majesty's service on every occasion, but particularly in these nice and critical times, leaves me no room to doubt of your readiness to promote every measure that will strengthen his Majesty's hands in the prosecution of the war against the rebels in America. The only doubts I ever entertained upon the proposal of sending foreign troops to Ireland are, whether it would be palatable to the people on your side of the water, or compatible with the circumstances of the country. The name of foreign troops may furnish a handle to the factions in Ireland, if the measure itself is disagreeable to the nation at large; and perhaps foreigners may, either from their ignorance of the language, or from other causes, not be applicable to many of the civil purposes in which the Irish army is necessarily employed. These two objections have made me doubt of the propriety of the measure, very desirable and, indeed, very important as it is in every other view. But it is of such consequence both that the government of Ireland should be well supported, and that the Irish should be kept in good humour, that I can never advise the measure in question till I have your Excellency's concurrence.

"In order to render it more palatable on your side of the water, I suggested in my last letter to your Excellency that Great Britain would bear the expense of the foreign troops, and I now beg leave to explain myself that the 4,000 foreigners will be deemed part of the 15,000 men composing the Irish Establishment. By which means the revenue of Ireland will, for a time, save the charge of maintaining 4,000 men; and the pay of the foreign troops will more than replace the money sent out of the Kingdom for the regiments serving abroad. I know that I shall be told here that by this arrangement Great Britain will be at the expense of 8,000 men in exchange for the service of 4,000. My answer must be, that the employment of 4,000 more men in America will be of infinite advantage to the publick; and that the defence and welfare of Ireland are objects for which the wealth of Great Britain will be well employed. Your Excellency will understand that this method of maintaining the foreigners by British pay, is suggested to your Excellency if you think it will remove the objections which will be made to the measure in Ireland. We wish to

be as well as possible in that Kingdom, and to consult their convenience and satisfaction in every thing. If your Excellency should find that 4,000 men cannot be carried, but that a smaller number would not be unacceptable, we will content ourselves with a smaller number; though we certainly should be better pleased to send as many as the country are willing or able to admit; because the assistance we can draw from thence to the American War will be in proportion to the number of foreign troops we send thither.

"In answer to the questions your Excellency puts to me, I am to inform you that we mean to supply the absence of regular troops from Great Britain by the Militia; and that, by the best legal advice, it appears that his Majesty may, without breach of the law, employ foreign troops if he will pay for them himself; and if, being added to the National troops, they do not exceed the number voted by parliament. I must, however, add that foreign troops cannot be quartered in his Majesty's dominions without an act of parliament, as they are not comprehended in the mutiny act; and that it would be very unadvisable to introduce foreign troops into Great Britain or Ireland, without previously taking the advice of both parliaments.

"Your Excellency will by this time have received an order from the secretary of state to

prepare five regiments for foreign service by the 1st of December; including two that were to have left Europe early in the spring, and were not comprehended in the 12,000 men allotted for the defence of Ireland. The three other regiments will be replaced by three regiments from England of 677 men each. The transports which are sent from hence to take up the Irish regiments, will, in the first place, land those which we are to send from hence; so that Ireland will be rather strengthened by this change.

"I mention to your Excellency, in confidence, that this expedition is destined to the southern provinces of America; where they will be able to act best in winter, and where we have intelligence that many of the inhabitants are already heartily sick of the dispute.

"I enclose, for your Excellency's inspection, a state of the net receipt, in England, of the Vice-treasurer's salary for six years, from 1756 to 1762, both inclusive. Mr. Ellis has suggested two methods of making up to them their losses; one, by an address to the Crown, according to the enclosed precedent; and the other, by an augmented salary in lieu of fees. Whichsoever of the two methods will be the most agreeable to your Excellency will be very satisfactory to the Vice-treasurers and to me; but it is much to be feared that the great amount of the salary, which must

necessarily be given to make up to the office what it has lost, will startle the gentlemen of the Irish parliament. Mr. Ellis thinks the salary should be £4,000 per annum, but I believe that he includes in that sum an indemnification for the losses of past years. Perhaps that may be too much to ask; but I really think the office will not be restored by any salary less than £3,800 per annum, which will leave a net receipt in England of £2,565. All these calculations are made exclusive of the expenses of the office, which are at present borne out of the fees, which amount, *communibus annis*, to £1,700, and which will remain a charge upon Ireland beyond the salaries to the Vice-treasurers.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*October 26th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I send your Lordship, herewith, the account of the exports from Ireland, which you desire, for ten years past. You must suppose, however, that, upon contract, at least a third more will be charged than is set down; and as to the quantity exported a very considerable addition is to be made to the provisions regularly entered. I may, therefore, venture to affirm the government paying nearly as much as the merchant receives at present by running all hazards. Much more provisions may be had from this country than what is described by the account transmitted to your Lordship.

"As to the embargo, should it appear at any time indispensable, like every thing else that is essential to the King's service under your Lordship's administration, it shall be obeyed zealously and implicitly; but, as your kindness and partiality have left me a latitude upon the subject, permit me to mention a few of the inconveniences that such a measure would stand exposed to.

"Corn is an absolute drug, in such abundance

as to cause a desire that its importation hither should be taxed. In the South and West of this Kingdom rents are generally paid in beef, butter, and pork; and a year's rent is annually paid, in November or December, by bills upon merchants for all the produce of Munster and Connaught. Lands have already fallen exceedingly in their value for three or four years past. If an embargo should be laid for six weeks to come, the farmers and squires will be sacrificed to contractors and exporters. Provisions must be necessarily sold, in the mean time, by the farmers; and the merchant, as soon as the embargo shall be taken off, will then export to all places provisions which have lain in his cellars. So that the price of lands will fall still lower, and the poor will not be relieved.

"Lands are now offered to sale, without purchasers, in some places, at from 16 to 18 years' purchase. Should, however, an embargo be still thought necessary, the moment it shall be decided on a bill shall be prepared, as I mentioned in my last, to empower the Lord Lieutenant and Council to issue a proclamation for that purpose; and I will endeavour to have it carried through with such expedition as will, I hope, prevent any possible ill consequences. Until, however, it shall be pronounced necessary, every hint tending to raise any rumour of an embargo should, in my

humble opinion, be carefully suppressed. It is, therefore, that I have forborne calling together a meeting of the confidential servants of the crown upon this subject.

"These are my sentiments, delivered to your Lordship with that freedom which your kindness to me not only authorises but commands. You are now in total possession of the subject, signify but your pleasure, and your Lordship's determination shall be the law of my conduct.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*October 27th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—By this mail your Lordship will receive my official recommendation of Major Hugh Skeffington of the 2nd horse to succeed Major Conway of the 2nd horse, whom, I understand, is promoted to a company in the guards. Although this gentleman's standing in the army is that of a captain of 16 years' service, and that he is the eldest of that rank on this, as well as, I believe, on the British establishment, yet I will freely own to your Lordship that had he not some other merit to plead in the King's service, he is not exactly the officer that I should have proposed as Major Conway's successor.

"My private reasons for adopting Major Skef-

fington are, I will confess, founded in the exigency of the moment. He is brother to the late Lord Massarene. He is in Parliament. His two nephews are in Parliament also; and have, until the present session, opposed my administration. Some weeks before we met they made their peace. One of the nephews I mean, on the first vacancy, to appoint one of my aid-de-camps. The Uncle expected a fair attention to himself in his profession, and he now claims it. They have supported very zealously, and I am clear in opinion that it will be for his Majesty's *general* service, at this time, to gratify him in his request.

"We have many material points to carry. Upon the breach of the law establishing the augmentation, it will require every exertion on my part to defeat the attack of Opposition. Upon America, it will be highly necessary to confirm our majority; and in many other instances, perhaps in appearance less essential, yet equally necessary to the King's affairs, and to the peace and quiet of this Kingdom, our members must be attended to. If Major Skeffington is not gratified I cannot expect his own, or his nephews' support; and a defection of three, which to us makes a difference of six voices, will, upon all or either of the cases I have mentioned be highly prejudicial to his Majesty's government in this Kingdom. I do, therefore, make it my

humble request that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to accept of my recommendation of Major Skeffington to succeed Major Conway.

"With regard to Captain Francis, whom I have recommended in succession to Major Skeffington, he served in the 17th regiment of Dragoons from the raising of the regiment till 1773, when he was permitted to purchase the Company he now has in the 62nd. He also purchased his Cornetcy and Lieutenancy in the 17th, and, as I am informed by Sir John Blaquiere, was employed as Adjutant during the greatest part of that time. I am assured that there is not a more deserving or active cavalry officer of his rank in the army. Added to his military merit, I do him only justice in declaring that he has been of very great use to my administration in a variety of instances, having the advantage of being on the most confidential footing with most of the friends of government in the House of Commons. In addition to these considerations, he is the first officer in my family, being my state steward, which gives him a claim to my protection, as his conduct has, upon all occasions, to my warmest regards, &c.

"P.S. Lord Antrim has just been with me to express his zeal for the support of his Majesty's government. He told me that he lives in the midst of a very Protestant tenantry, which might

enable him to be serviceable either in raising of a new corps, or in forwarding the recruiting service. I expressed my sense of his Lordship's offer, and told him that I would take the first opportunity of making known to his Majesty his Lordship's assurances of zeal and attachment. I told him that I did not apprehend any design to raise new corps, but that any encouragement to the recruiting service will be an essential benefit to the Crown. I believe he intends to bring in a young brother of Massarene's to succeed to his vacant seat for the remainder of the session, for the County of Antrim. There will then be four Skeffingtons in parliament."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Mr. Robinson, Secretary to the Treasury :—

"*November 2nd*, 1775.

"MY DEAR SIR,—Since my return hither, my Lord Lieutenant's attention, as far as other measures would allow, has been particularly directed to the consideration of the approaching dissolution, and its more important consequence the election of a new parliament; to which, if the greatest care and attention be not had, we may, peradventure, lose thirty or forty of our best friends; as I very particularly stated, both to yourself and Lord North, when I was in London. The means to remedy the evil are but few, and, after the conversation we have had upon this score, in which there appeared almost an impossibility of affording us any assistance from England, I shall suppose but one. You must, by pension or place, sink a sum of not less than £9,000 per annum, exclusive of the provision that may be found requisite for rewarding and indemnifying those who are immediately connected, by office, with his Excellency's administration, or attending

on his person. The former is a matter of necessity, the other of justice; both equally claiming the attention of the Crown.

"There are, as I have said, not less than from thirty to forty members that, if not assisted, certainly cannot secure their re-elections. Many of these gentlemen hold small employments or pensions, from two to three, some under two hundred, pounds a year. Their seats in the new parliament cannot be purchased at less than from 2,000 guineas to £2,500. Their past services certainly entitle them to the possession of what they now hold; and an addition, by pension or salary, from two to £250 or more, as circumstances may require, must surely be considered as scarcely an adequate compensation for the advance and loss of so large a sum as 2,000 guineas.

"There are, besides, several gentlemen who, holding not a shilling under the Crown, have assisted and are now engaged to support the measures of government, upon expectation given them of a suitable provision at the end of this session; and for which the faith of government was pledged during my Lord Townshend's administration. Many of these he recommended for specific stations or pensions, as your lists will inform you. Among the number of gentlemen to be added, I include the Earl of Belvidere, who returns four members, and the Earl of Bellamont,

whose services have been marked, zealous, and effectual.

"To furnish you with a list of names, at the present moment, could give you neither satisfaction nor information. Let it suffice that for carrying on the public business in the next session of parliament, together with having a prospect of perfecting our business in this, a charge not less than I have stated is indispensable. In truth the transactions of this session are so much involved in the consideration of having a respectable body of friends in the new parliament, that it is impossible to separate them. They are so closely interwoven together that I have been already obliged, with my Lord Lieutenant's leave, to promise small additional salaries or pensions to Messrs. Blakeney, Fitzgerald, Tighe, Sandford, Pennefather, O'Brien, Coghlan, Malone, Cane, and Fetherston. These gentlemen we had reason to think were wavering in their faith, and would probably have gone against us, or staid away this session, upon an expectation of perhaps losing their offices at the end of it; because they were in no possible capacity of bringing themselves in at the general election, without some assistance. There are others in the same way; but that we may not hold out unauthorised expectation, which may involve many of our best friends, as well as ourselves, in inextricable difficulties, I am, by Lord Harcourt's

desire, to request that you will take the earliest convenient moment to state this matter to my Lord North. We shall then know how far we shall be warranted in entering into engagements for the King's service, as well for the purpose of rewarding gentlemen for their former support, as to continue and secure it to the Crown in the next parliament.

"It is agreeable, however, to consider that the sum, compared to the service, is a trifle in effect; and there is a further reflection, not displeasing to make, that we have, at this moment, upon a balance, a saving in hand of some thousands a year by pensions fallen in. There is, indeed, a great list of gentlemen, who, either from inadequate fortune, or good services to the Crown, are allowed to have a claim to the assistance of government to enable them to purchase into the next parliament. We are in great hopes, however, from the arrangements that have been made, in consequence of the new creations and advances expected in our peerage, that we shall receive such assistance in bringing our friends into Parliament as will, together with these considerations, secure the object so necessary to be obtained.

"Lose not a moment, I beseech you, my dear Sir, in stating these things to Lord North, for, unless we are empowered to negociate with certain gentlemen, I am warranted in declaring that there

are not less than thirty or forty of our firmest friends that will unavoidably not be returned in the next parliament, and who may probably make a defection in this; a consideration, in the present temper of the times, of the most serious import, and well deserving the instant attention and interposition of government. I need not add that such a defection of numbers in this House of Commons must, at any time, prove decisive against every measure of government. . . .

"I am, &c."

Letters from the Earl of Rochford.

FROM the Earl of Rochford to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November* 10*th*, 1775.

(*Not given to me till* 20*th May*, 1776.—H.)

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have had so many proofs of your Excellency's friendship that I need make no apology for my troubling you with my last dying words as a publick man. As a private one I shall ever esteem myself honored with the continuance of your friendship and correspondence. This morning I resigned the Seals; not by my own choice, but with my hearty concurrence, as it contributed to an arrangement thought necessary for the King's affairs. I have, however, obtained a most honorable retreat, a very considerable pension for my life, and a promise from the King that he will confer the Garter upon me the first Chapter His Majesty holds. Lord Weymouth succeeds me, and, as the Duke of Grafton is turned out from the Privy Seal, Lord Dartmouth succeeds his Grace, and Lord George Germaine succeeds Lord Dartmouth. Some other inconsiderable changes will take place, but they are not yet finally settled.

"I hope you will forgive me if I venture to trespass so far on your friendship as to beg your Lordship will, if you can, give me a little sinecure place of about £50 or £60 a year for an old servant that has lived with me these thirty years. I have now no way of providing for him but by keeping him myself, which will be a great charge to me.

"My dear Lord, I have still an opportunity of getting any thing properly represented where you would wish it; and I need not add how happy I shall be to seize every opportunity of doing your administration justice. Lord North is stronger than ever, and I am sure you need not fear any other quarter whilst he is in power.

"I am, &c."

From the Earl of Rochford to Sir John Blaquiere :—

"*November* 11*th*, 1775.

"DEAR BLAQUIERE,—How surprised and, I am sure, concerned you will be when you hear that I am no longer Secretary of State. By the letter I write this night's post to Lord Harcourt you will learn the particulars. When I see you I will tell you some anecdotes about it which will make you stare indeed. I beg you will take care amongst your friends to let it be known that it was not my choice, but that I am *perfectly* satis-

fied with the conditions; they are both honorable and lucrative. The hands of government are certainly strengthened by Lord George Germaine. My good friend Suffolk is jockeyed both as to the Ribband and to his colleague, for Weymouth is as much superior to him in talents as he is in principle; but, be that as it may, remember you have still here a humble servant who has still an opportunity to be of use to you, and you know you may command him.

"I have ventured to ask a favor of Lord Harcourt. If he can oblige me he will make me happy beyond measure. It is for our old friend Strasburgh, my butler, who has poured you out many a glass of good Burgundy, and who will be a burthen to me if I am not relieved from it. Adieu, dear Sir John, let me hear from you, and believe me ever, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 12th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Whilst I acknowledge the kindness with which your Lordship has been pleased to mention my efforts in support of the King's government and your Lordship's administration, permit me to mention my concern and surprise at finding my measures obstructed, and the peace of this Kingdom considerably disturbed, by a very new and unexpected species of opposition indeed. I mean that which has arisen, not in this House of Commons, but in yours; supported by some who are called the King's friends.

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"It was a matter, I own, of no small consolation and triumph to me to watch the success with which my Secretary had conducted the King's business this session, and to observe the universal approbation and respect which his abilities had gained in dealing with the most difficult and complicated subjects. This was the more marked, as by the treachery of old and by the timidity or bashfulness of new friends, he had frequently been obliged, almost singly, to sustain the weight of argument and acrimonious altercation of debate.

Your Lordship will easily judge then how disappointed and mortified I must naturally feel at hearing, not that he has been constantly and grossly misrepresented, for that tribute I should look for from envy, but that those misrepresentations are adopted as facts in the British Parliament, not only by your opposers, but by some of the highest of your political friends. When, for example, it is asserted here that Great Britain has no intention of taxing Ireland, is it necessary to lay a special stress in your House of Commons upon absolute right to tax Ireland? a right, I presume, which is not intended to be exercised, but the vaunting of which is calculated to inflame the minds of a loyal and sensitive people, at a time most critical to Great Britain.

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"Forgive me, my dear Lord, for earnestly requesting that, while every act of mine marks the warmest attachment to the King's government, and to your Lordship's administration, this injurious practice so lately, and, I must add, so unwisely, assumed, may be discouraged as much as possible.

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"In short, my dear Lord, let me be permitted to escape the censure of your friends, and I shall set at defiance the opposition of your enemies. If my Secretary shall be fortunate enough to have

succeeded beyond the expectations, or, perhaps, the wishes, of some of his predecessors, the only merit which he is ambitious of assuming is his attachment to me, and his zeal to execute the King's commands.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 15th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . On Monday last the question upon the 12,000 men was debated here. Two objects of more important consequence for the King's government I fancy were never brought into this House before. Mr. Conolly, with professions of great moderation, moved, in a most inflammatory speech, certain resolutions importing that the King's promise had been violated, and the law broken. He closed with a proposal for an address to his Majesty to lay these facts before him.

"Your Lordship must know, that upon these two great points Opposition had built their best hopes; and, that satisfied, and even exulting, with an expectation of making an impression upon us, they had brought up, as it were in their litters, from their Infirmaries in the remotest parts of the Kingdom, men who were not able to move but to vote. My Secretary has ever treated these

bravados with a sovereign, though a decent, contempt. The answer he made to Mr. Conolly, and the footing on which he stated this matter, was so forcible, and so satisfactory to every member of the House, that I am informed that had Mr. Conolly divided it at that moment there is reason to imagine he would have appeared in a very contemptible minority. The disappointment will, I fancy, be equally felt on your side the water; for Mr. Conolly, in his unguarded expressions, roundly asserted he had been moved to the enquiry not less by gentlemen in England than by his friends here.

"Sir John Blaquiere urged the withdrawing the motion, judging, with particular discretion, how much better such a proceeding would meet your Lordship's future views than any majority, though ever so decisive. And, at the end of the debate, he felt himself strong enough to propose an alternative to the Opposition, either to withdraw the motion, or to accept a resolution which he had in the course of the debate prepared. This resolution, substituted for Mr. Conolly's, formulates a most solemn declaration that the engagement with this country has been most faithfully, inviolably, and religiously observed, as far as the numbers of the army and the nature of the establishment would permit. Mr. Conolly withdrew his motion, and I think I may tell your Lordship

that the amendment passed almost with unanimity.

"Mr. Flood made, as I learn, a most eloquent speech. Indeed I believe him to be cordial, and I hope his Majesty will derive from his assistance an able supporter to his government.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 20th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—This morning, for the second time, his Majesty's confidential servants and the great officers of state met at my apartments, upon the further discussion of your desire to send 4,000 men to America.

"It is with singular satisfaction that I can acquaint your Lordship that I found them unanimously well disposed and zealous in this business; and that I begin to hope I may not meet quite so many difficulties in carrying it into execution as I had expected. It will require, however, the closest attention in the management of it to prevent any accident that may arise, as the proposal is so entirely new in this Kingdom, and is, in truth, fraught with numberless difficulties which we must endeavour to surmount. We agreed upon a message which I am to send to both Houses of Parliament. I shall, however, forbear

sending it to your Lordship at this moment, as it may suffer some alteration. The message will be answered by an address which will be framed into two parts; the first, which is the measure of government, will give the concurrence of both Houses for the exportation of the troops; the other, containing the alternative or option of bringing the foreign troops into the Kingdom, I mean should be shewn to gentlemen, that they may, if they should think proper, adopt it, and let it be an act of their own. I am satisfied that this mode will be the best, for if it come included in the address, and is moved by a friend of government, it would be made the great object of contention by Opposition, who would not fail to fasten upon it. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*November 26th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Last night, at 12 o'clock, the House, in a committee upon the enclosed resolution for sparing to his Majesty upon the present exigency of American affairs a force not exceeding 4,000 men, divided, 121 against 76; and it is with the truest satisfaction and joy that I offer my warmest congratulations to your Lordship upon the success of an event which you

had so much at heart. The event gives me the more pleasure, when I reflect that, in the course of my government Ireland shall have been brought to verify those professions of loyalty which she has so frequently sent to the foot of the throne in such an unequivocal manner, and that it shall be made such a substantial prop to your Lordship's administration.

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"Among all the obstacles that lay in our way, the greatest difficulty which appeared was the introducing foreigners into the Kingdom; and I am, in my conscience, satisfied that, if the two measures had been complicated together, such an opposition would have been raised to this one as must have defeated both. Four thousand men for the American service is the great and material object mentioned in your Lordship's letters; and the sparing these troops must be such a convincing proof to America, and to the whole world, of the decisive part Ireland takes in the quarrel, as must be tantamount almost to the substantial assistance which it renders. It was, therefore, that, in an early part of the debate, Sir John Blaquiere stepped forth for the determined purpose of separating the two ideas, boldly avowing as the measure of government the sparing 4,000 men upon this emergency, and leaving entirely to the option of the House whether they would

accept or not of the foreign protestants that were offered to replace them, the consideration of which comes on to-morrow.

"It is essentially necessary that I should be very explicit in informing your Lordship that the 4,000 men to be spared are of such men only as our 12,000 are composed of. I mean that they can be only 4,000 nominal men, because the 12,000 are nominal and not effective; and this must necessarily be the case, even though foreigners were to be introduced; for foreigners are not applicable to the civil services of the country. If, therefore, a smaller proportion of national troops than that which will remain, after the 4,000 men are sent away, was left in the country, I am bound in duty to declare that the internal peace of this kingdom would not be secure, nor the government safe.

"The speakers in opposition to the measures were Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Fitzgibbon, Sir E. Newnham, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Ogle, Sir James Coller, Mr. Morres, Mr. Yelverton (very violent), Mr. Chapman, Mr. Conolly, and Mr. Hussey Burgh, who closed the debate on their part; and on ours it was defended by Mr. Keller, Sir John Blaquiere, Mr. Carleton, Mr. W. Flood, Mr. Jephson, Mr. Langrishe, Mr. B. Barry, Mr. Mason, Mr. French, Mr. Prime Serjeant Dennis, Mr. Forster, the Solicitor General, Mr. Serjeant Coppinger, and Sir John

Blaquiere a second time in reply to Mr. Hussey Burgh, who finally closed the debate. Sir Archibald Acheson moved the resolution for the Address, and was seconded by Colonel Ross.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*November 30th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—. . . . And now I come to the state of defence in which this country will stand when the 4,000 men are sent out of it. We mean heartily and sincerely to contribute one third of our whole force to the exigency of the present moment, upon the principle that, by the wisest disposition of the defences that remain to us, the peace of the Kingdom may be still ensured. Were our effective numbers complete, you might command 4,000 effective men; but you will see by the enclosed state, which has been thoroughly sifted in parliament, how matters actually stand; nor will you be disposed to give us the less credit for our services under these accumulated disadvantages. On the first of November, the effective numbers of our 12,000 men amounted only to 9,260; and after subtracting one third, namely the 3,086 men which are left at your command, there will remain to us 6,174 men only. In these numbers 519 contingent men are included; but,

to counterbalance this diminution, the recruits raised since the 1st November are not stated in the account; so that, taken together, it may fairly be supposed that, were the embarkation to take place to-morrow, there would remain in this country for its defence, 6,174 men in their shoes. Compared with the 12,000 men appointed by law to remain in this Kingdom for its defence, this is a very great disproportion. I am satisfied, nevertheless, that, by a special repartition of these troops, better service may be obtained from them.

* * * * * *

"I am not alarmed at the troubles excited by the risings of the White Boys in the south, which must chiefly be dealt with by the civil magistrates, and for which the military alone will ever be found insufficient. I must, however, intreat to be allowed to recommend as a necessary measure, the embodying into independent companies as many out-pensioners from our Kilmainham lists as shall be found upon examination to be fit for service. I have reason to think that we may obtain near upon 1,000 in number. I should wish them to be incorporated into companies of one hundred each; officered from the half-pay in Great Britain or Ireland; or in such other manner as his Majesty shall think fit. The extra expense, if any should arise, ought to be borne by Great Britain; and this, after the generous

offers your Lordship has made, will scarcely meet with your refusal. But, above all things, I must entreat you, with my humble duty to his Majesty, to represent that, if any special draft of the old and formed soldiers on this establishment were to be made into the corps destined for the American service, it is my humble but decided opinion that this country would be insecure, and the peace of the Kingdom no longer to be depended on.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE.

"*December 1st*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I do not well know how to begin my letter to your Excellency, whether by thanks for your zeal and activity in the late important business, or by congratulations on your extraordinary success. A resolution of the Irish House of Commons, so important and so seasonable, must have the most extensive good consequences, even if we were not to avail ourselves of their friendly disposition; but we shall most probably call for their proffered assistance, at least in some degree, early in the next year. Your Excellency judged rightly that the first part of the proposition was what we had most at heart. Foreign protestant troops were only offered upon a supposition that Ireland would desire to have the 4,000 men replaced by some means or other. His Majesty does by no means wish that any should be sent thither if there is the least dislike conceived against them. Since I wrote to your Excellency upon this subject we are in a fair way of obtaining the assistance of the Scotch brigade

in the Dutch service. Perhaps, if it should be found necessary to supply the deficiency in the Irish army, the most convenient as well as the most palatable way of supplying it would be by that corps, all the officers of which and a great part of the private men are his Majesty's natural born subjects. This is only for your Excellency's private ear. It is not yet certain that we shall take the brigade into British pay. I could wish, therefore, only to have your Excellency's private sentiments upon this proposal, if the situation of affairs should render it necessary. I think it better that my suggestion should be communicated to none of the King's servants in Ireland except Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief.

"I am sorry to find that any thing which has passed in our House of Commons should have given any uneasiness to your Excellency. If you had been present you would not have conceived the matter to have deserved that attention which it seems to have excited in Ireland. I have almost forgot the transaction you allude to, as I took very little notice of it at the time; but, if I remember well, it passed in the following manner. Some member, I think Mr. Barre, quoted in a debate some words of Sir John Blaquiere in the Irish House of Commons, to this effect, 'That Mr. Rigby's declaration in the last session was

only the opinion of a rash individual, and not the sense of his Majesty's Ministers.' This was said in such a manner as made it absolutely necessary for Mr. Rigby to take notice of it. He certainly maintained his old opinion, as true in theory and as grounded in the statute book; but expressed himself most strongly against the propriety and justice of imposing any tax upon Ireland. He never sought the opportunity of saying a word upon the subject; and, when called upon in such a manner that he could not continue silent, treated the question as prudently as possible without directly contradicting his former declaration. Your Excellency may be assured that this conversation arose by accident, and that nothing passed that day, either from Mr. Rigby or any other person, that could raise the least alarm in the breast of any reasonable Irishman.

"Mr. Robinson will, by this occasion, write a few lines to Sir John Blaquiere upon the subject of his most *secret and confidential* letter. The King desires that the particulars of your Excellency's demand may be stated; and will not authorise me to give any *positive answer* till that is done. I may, however, venture to add, what I hope you will believe, that there is on this side of the water a most favorable disposition to comply with your Excellency's wishes.

"As every regiment ordered to America is to

leave behind a Captain to superintend the recruiting service, I have it in command from his Majesty to inform your Excellency that it is his pleasure that Captain Acland should remain on the part of Lord Cornwallis. It is his Majesty's further pleasure that Mr. Acland be allowed to purchase a majority upon the Irish Establishment as soon as any opportunity shall offer.

"Ever since I received your Excellency's letter in the course of the summer I have endeavoured to carry the plan of his new corps into execution, but difficulties have arisen which have prevented it. I now most earnestly wish to see his views upon the majority succeed; and shall esteem myself particularly obliged to your Excellency if you will promote it.

"We are much obliged to Mr. Acland for the zeal he has shewn during the present disturbances, and it is of great political consequence that he should obtain the favor which he solicits.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 2nd*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In my other letter I sincerely congratulated you upon your success; but I beg leave to add a word here to tell you how much I was alarmed at finding you had deter-

mined to bring the business immediately before parliament, without referring it to the consideration of his Majesty's servants here. My alarm was the greater as your Excellency had proceeded upon a private letter of mine, which could not give any official authority; and which was only calculated to learn from your Excellency what were the sentiments of the people of Ireland, in order that his Majesty might, if they proved favorable, take such steps as he should think proper in consequence. The business never having been formally laid before the cabinet, and the circumstance of the offers of the Duke of Brunswick and the young Prince of Hesse never having been communicated to the British parliament, I run some risk of being blamed both by the parliament and my brother Ministers.

"A great clamour was endeavoured to be raised yesterday in the House of Commons upon two grounds; the first, that the taking of the Brunswickers and Hessians into pay had been communicated to the Irish before the British parliament; and the second, that the Lord Lieutenant had been authorised from hence to pledge the British parliament to pay for the 4,000 Irish and the foreign troops. These were two heavy charges. As notice has been given of a day to take your Excellency's message into consideration, I evaded entering into the question any further than saying

that no authority had been given from hence to pledge the parliament of Great Britain; and that I could venture to affirm that your Excellency had not done it. I think that the words of the message will justify me in my assertion. I am obliged, by business, to put an immediate end to this letter, but I cannot conclude it without desiring your Excellency not to suppose that I complain of what has been done in Ireland. Your great success makes amends for more than all the inconveniences which may accrue to me from any error that may have happened in the form of proceeding. I do not know as yet that any great difficulties will arise, or that there has been any step taken which can be called error, unless it should have been one to have acted upon my private letter of enquiry, without waiting for an official authority and directions grounded upon the advice of all his Majesty's servants.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 9th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have had this moment the honour of your Lordship's letters of the 1st and 2nd instant, and am happy to find that my readiness to carry into execution your Lordship's wishes with regard to the 4,000 men has not been displeasing to your Lordship, nor disadvantageous to your administration.

"Though I may be blamed by some, as proceeding too hastily and unadvisedly in a matter of such importance; and though I am sure of being condemned by those who are any ways adverse to the measures now pursuing by Great Britain, yet I am sustained by a consciousness of having done my duty to the King and to my country; and I most solemnly declare that, were the like question to be again under consideration, I should endeavour to do precisely what I did on the late occasion. Your Lordship perceives that I do not mean to make the least apology for having almost anticipated your wishes; but, the truth is, the business admitted of no

delay; there was an absolute necessity to bring the matter to a speedy issue, after the Committee of supply was closed, and before the heads of the money bill was reported. It was to that necessity I acquiesced rather than lose the opportunity of doing his Majesty the most essential service I can ever expect to do him.

* * * * * *

"And, therefore, regardless of the consequences of not waiting for an official order to justify my conduct, I ventured to avail myself of the critical moment for the service of the Crown. But if, after all that has been done, people should be so prejudiced as to disapprove, not only of the measure itself, but of the mode of conducting it, I shall be most ready to take the blame of the whole, or any part of it, upon myself, rather than see your Lordship the object of the least censure or reproach that you do not deserve. I think there is little reason to be very apprehensive either of the one or the other. The consent of the two Houses of Parliament to part with the 4,000 men was only conditional, and was no ways binding on Great Britain, unless she chooses to accept the troops, on the terms that have been held out. The transaction, moreover, cannot be supposed to take effect until his Majesty shall be enabled by parliament to take the troops into British pay. This is no unfair construction to put upon the

words of my message to the two Houses of Parliament.

"After troubling your Lordship so long, I shall only beg leave to observe, that no one has any reason to take offence at what has been done, except his Majesty's rebellious subjects in North America, and their secret and traiterous abettors in Great Britain, for whom I have the most sovereign contempt. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*December 9th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—You desire to know my sentiments respecting the Scotch brigade in the Dutch service; that is to say, as to the expediency of employing them in Ireland, if the situation of affairs should make more troops necessary.

"The officers attached to that brigade being his Majesty's natural born subjects, may make the employment of it less liable to exception than the employment of other foreign troops.

* * * * * *

"If the Commander in chief were here, and it were already determined to send the Scotch brigade to Ireland, I should certainly call upon him for his opinion as to the proper mode of carrying

into execution his Majesty's commands. But, as to the expediency of the measure itself, I should be unwilling to consult him or any gentleman in his situation. And that, for this very plain and obvious reason, because my station makes me alone responsible for the consequences of such a measure.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 11th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—There is one point above all others in your letters of the 1st and 2nd, which requires my most particular and serious observation. I do not mean, when I am forced to talk of the Commander in chief, to enter into the particulars of the conduct of General Irwin: it is my intention, if it be possible, to avoid doing so; but when I hear, in this serious manner, from your Lordship, that it is expected I should consult with him upon a measure of State of such importance as that of the introduction of the Scotch Dutch into this Kingdom, it is a duty I owe to his Majesty, as well as to myself, explicitly to speak my opinion. It will always be my desire to avail myself of the opinion of the Commander in chief upon military points; and particularly in matters of internal regulation; yet, in a mighty matter

of State, as this matter appears to me, I should not hold myself free to put it into the power of a person who has no responsibility in this country to cross or check any measure which I might deem essential to his Majesty's general service, and for which the Lord Lieutenant alone is to be made answerable. This for your own private information, but I wish your Lordship to be in the full and entire possession of my mind.

"I shall beg leave to acquaint your Lordship, that, if I have been able to do his Majesty any little service since I came into this country, it may be in some measure owing to my not consulting too frequently the confidential servants of government. I do not mean to cast any reflection upon those gentlemen, but only to convince your Lordship of the necessity of not divulging every measure of government without an absolute necessity, that is to say where it cannot be carried into execution without their assistance. I was the more inclined to trouble your Lordship with these particulars, because it has been industriously given out that the servants of the Crown have been slighted by me; a charge that gives me little uneasiness as long as it shall appear that his Majesty's service has not been neglected by,

"My dear Lord, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"MOST SECRET AND PRIVATE.

"*December 15th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—To save your Lordship some trouble, I have directed Sir John Blaquiere to send to Mr. Robinson a statement of the arrangements that are necessary to fulfil my engagements, entered into to secure such a majority in the new Parliament as may afford a fair prospect of carrying on his Majesty's affairs with success.

"Though the list transmitted to Mr. Robinson has been made with the greatest care and attention, yet I thought it so material for your Lordship to be minutely informed of every circumstance that has relation to an object of such moment to the welfare and ease of his Majesty's government as the choice of a new Parliament, that I have sent my private Secretary, Mr. Lees, to give your Lordship any further lights which you may wish to have. Mr. Lees having the honour to be known to your Lordship, makes it the less necessary for me to say so much of him as I should otherwise do. I shall only take the liberty to assure your Lordship that no one can give you so precise, so accurate, and so faithful, an account of every thing that relates to the House of Commons. He is thoroughly acquainted with all their proceedings, having attended all the debates, as well in Lord

Townshend's time, as during the last and present session of parliament. There is not a member of the House of whom he has not more or less knowledge. Many of them he knows intimately, their characters, their views, their particular merits and demerits. No one, in short, has had so fair an opportunity of acquiring so thorough a knowledge of and insight into the various connections of this Kingdom ; and it is that knowledge, joined with the strictest honour, good sense, and most unblemished integrity that has enabled him to do me, and, permit me to say, his Majesty, the most important services.

"Should your Lordship have any thing of consequence to impart, either relative to my own situation or to the affairs of this country, you may venture to communicate it to Mr. Lees with the greatest safety and confidence.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December* 18*th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The public business drawing towards a conclusion, and every material object of the Crown being fulfilled, I take the liberty of mentioning to your Lordship Sir John Blaquiere, to whose abilities and fidelity in the various branches of business, and particularly in the House of Commons, the success of my admin-

istration has been greatly owing. The office of Alnage which he holds is not only precarious and uncertain in the collection of its fees, but the value of it is lessening every year; so that at this moment it does not produce more than £700 per annum, Irish. I understand that he took the liberty of representing to your Lordship that the incumbrances he had unavoidably brought upon himself while he was secretary to the embassy and *Chargé des affaires* at Paris, and his still more necessary expenses incurred during the former session of parliament, must fall very heavily upon him, unless his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to make some further provision for him.

"I do, therefore, most earnestly entreat your Lordship's good offices with his Majesty; and that you would make it my most humble request, and it shall be the last I shall ever make for Sir John, that, when the business of this session is over, his Majesty would, out of his bounty to a faithful servant who has served the Crown with no less ability than zeal, graciously bestow on him a provision to the amount of £1,500 per annum, upon this establishment, during his Majesty's pleasure.

"There are so many crosses and unforeseen events to which all things of this nature are liable, that I must submit to your Lordship's friendship and prudence the favourable moment of laying

this my earnest request before the King. It would be but an invidious task to draw a parallel between the services of Sir John and those of his predecessors in office; but I may presume to hope that, when they are thoroughly considered, they will speak for themselves. I hope I shall not be thought too importunate on this occasion. If, however, I should appear so, it will be less inexcusable in behalf of another than in anything that personally concerns,

"My dear Lord, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 21st*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I expressed myself very ill if my last letter to your Excellency conveyed any idea that your conduct had been blamed by any of his Majesty's servants. What I wrote respecting the message proceeded solely from my own apprehensions, which, thank God, have proved ill founded. That very important transaction which has been so gloriously successful in Ireland has not been, nor, I trust, will be, attended with any bad consequences here. My brethren in administration have made no complaint, and have expressed no jealousy of the channel through which the business passed. As to the wording of the message, I am satisfied that, if it should be ever questioned in the House of Commons, we shall not find it a difficult matter to defend it. We shall contend that the relief offered to the Irish Establishment is nothing more than a very necessary and reasonable condition upon which alone his Majesty desired the 4,000 men; and which it was requisite for the King to mention to the parliament of Ireland at the time of the requisition;

that the King has by no means pledged the parliament of Great Britain; that the question is still entire with respect to us; that application must be made to us if his Majesty wishes to have the 4,000 men on the British Establishment; and that if we refuse our consent the consequence will be that they will remain in Ireland. This, I think, is the plain meaning of the message, which appears to me so clear that I much question whether the matter will ever be agitated in our House of Commons. Those who spoke so violently upon the subject a fortnight ago, spoke from a very incorrect copy of the message which had been given in the public papers.

"Your Excellency seems to have misunderstood what I said respecting the Scotch Dutch; and, so, have misconstrued a *caution* that I suggested against mentioning the subject to any person except Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief, into a *desire* that you would consult with them. The truth is, that it was then uncertain whether we would take the brigade into his Majesty's service; and I thought that too general a communication of my question to your Excellency might be attended with inconvenience. On that account I wished that, for a time at least, no person might hear of the Scotch brigade but Sir John Blaquiere and the Commander in chief, whose opinions I thought it probable that you

might wish to take before you should return any answer to my enquiry.

"The King approves extremely of your Excellency's plan of availing yourself of such invalids of Kilmainham as are fit for service; but I could wish that, as the additional expense will not be great to Ireland, we may not be put to the difficulty of applying for it to the British House of Commons. In the case of foreign troops, as they would probably be taken into British pay, they might have been directed by his Majesty to go to Ireland, and the poverty of that Kingdom might have been pleaded against throwing the expense off of ourselves upon the Irish Establishment; but even in that case, as your Excellency has observed, I should have been exposed to a very disagreeable contest, and to many complaints on the part of this country; from which the Irish parliament have freed me by declining to accept the foreign troops. But the Hospital of Kilmainham belongs so entirely to Ireland, and the precedent of taking any of the pensioners belonging to that Hospital into British pay would give so much alarm and disgust, that I hope it will not be pressed; especially as the relief to the Irish Establishment will, in this instance, be so small and so little worth the trouble we shall be put to in order to obtain it.

"I am afraid that the parliament of Ireland

may be startled at the omission of the two clauses respecting the 4,000 men out of the money bill. The reasons assigned for it were these. First, that there was no law for maintaining constantly 12,000 men in Ireland; and that, therefore, it was unnecessary and might be of bad consequence to enact that it should be *lawful* to withdraw 4,000 of them; that the King's engagement with the Irish parliament was a *promise* from which he has, in the present instance, been absolved by the addresses of the two Houses; the proper method of signifying their consent in cases not contrary to law. Secondly, that this matter was so totally foreign to the proper subject of a money bill, that it had the appearance of a *Tack* against which it is indispensably necessary for the British Privy Council to be on their guard; especially as the Irish House of Commons complain so loudly against any material alteration in the heads of a money bill. I hope that these considerations will appear reasonable to the Irish House of Commons, as the Privy Council very carefully avoided every alteration that could have the least connection with money.

"I have just received a letter from Sir John Blaquiere with the news of the determination of the Irish parliament respecting the Vice-Treasurers and the Clerk of the Pells. I did not know that it was your Excellency's intention to

fix a salary upon the latter office. What had been resolved will, for the present, and probably for many years to come, be a considerable improvement to that office. If £3,500 in Ireland will produce more than £2,560 in London, as Sir John imagines, I believe our Vice-Treasurers will be very well satisfied.

"By Sir John's letter I learn that we may expect Mr. Lees every hour. As I imagine he comes commissioned to inform us fully of all your Excellency's plans and wishes, I shall be able to settle with him whatever I am from hurry obliged to omit in this letter.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. Lord George Germaine having written to Sir John Blaquiere a private letter containing at large his plan of employing the Scotch Dutch, it is unnecessary for me to mention that subject any further than to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 13th, which I received yesterday, and will lay before his Majesty this morning.

"*December 23rd.*

"Mr. Lees is arrived, and I have had a long discourse with him. He is now in my house, and I shall have some more conversation with him about your Excellency's message. I have

not yet laid it before the King, but will do it as soon as possible, and will return your Excellency a speedy and, I hope, not unfavorable answer.

"N."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 21st*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The alterations in the money bills have thrown us into some confusion. The money bill with the two offensive clauses, and the stamp bill, have both been rejected. We foresaw what was likely to happen, and were prepared to bring in new bills. The new stamp bill has already passed, after some very warm debates. Mr. Ogle moved to have the altered money bill burnt by the hands of the common hangman; but there was too good an attendance of our friends for Opposition to divide upon it. They are now debating the money bill with the two clauses that were struck out, and it is thought the House will sit late. The drift of Opposition is to force us to send back this bill in the same form in which it was first sent to you, and it is our business to resist such an attempt, and to send you back such a bill as will be liable to no kind of objection. Our revenue, as it is, will suffer sufficiently by the delay already occasioned. What becomes of the 4,000 men will be another consideration. I have

laboured as much as possible not to blend it with the money bill for fear of further entanglement.

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"Allow me, my dear Lord, though I am ashamed of giving you so much trouble, to say a word as to the expediency of inserting the two rejected clauses. The Royal promise to keep 12,000 men, &c., has been uniformly embodied in the money bill; and, if I am not misinformed, was the price of the augmentation in 1769, with the sanction and concurrence of the British and Irish legislatures; it would not, and indeed could not, have been carried but by the spirited exertion and activity of Lord Townshend. Shall it be said in England that it is *only the Royal promise* introduced into the Law? Is such language decent and respectful? No power on earth shall ever persuade me to think so. But if the Royal promise was binding, the two rejected clauses only set the promise free.

"But it is said to be a tack to a money bill. I cannot conceive that to be the case; for tacking to a money bill is *extorting* something from the Crown, and making it part of a grant. In this instance it is only one part of the law explaining and partially repealing another part, for the purpose of enabling his Majesty to avail himself of the 4,000 men; which, notwithstanding the prevailing opinion in England, is thought by almost

every man here to be impracticable, without some other powers than those that are derived from the addresses of the two Houses only. The House is still sitting, and it is now 10 o'clock. If the House is up time enough, I shall be unwilling, long as this letter is, to seal it without letting you know the event of the money bill. I make no doubt but the general sense of the House will be known in the course of the debate, as to the power of disposing of the 4,000 men in sending them out of the Kingdom.

"*Friday morning, December 22nd.*

"I waited till two this morning, when it was too late to send the letter by the packet. The House was not up before 3, but we carried our two bills. There were eight divisions. The bills will be brought up to the council this evening; and I hope we shall send them off by 11 o'clock this night. I need not say any thing after what has happened to enforce the necessity of returning these bills without any other than the usual alterations. Should those bills be lost we are undone. The loss of the revenue, great as it is, being the least of the mischiefs that may ensue.

"I shall send your Lordship, shortly, a particular account of what passed upon this occasion in parliament. At present I have not time to do it. There was a spirit of indignation raised in the

House, that required great temper and conduct on the part of Government to prevent the most indecent excesses. Since I have been in Ireland I have seen nothing of so serious a nature as this business, but I hope the heat will subside and every thing be quiet in a few days.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 23rd*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Upon talking with Mr. Lees, I think it would be wrong in me to let the messenger go without saying a word or two more about Lord George Germaine's letter to Sir John Blaquiere. Mr. Lees apprehends that Sir John may have some difficulty about receiving or answering it upon the supposition that it was written without the knowledge of your Excellency's humble servant. In order to obviate this mistake I think it right to inform your Excellency that it was written with the knowledge not only of your humble servant, but of the whole Cabinet Council. We are afraid that the Scotch Brigade are not fit for immediate service, and are, therefore, desirous of introducing them into Ireland, where we apprehend that they may be more useful than foreign troops; and where we fear that the army remaining will be found too small for the necessary demands of the Kingdom. Lord George Germaine having laid before us the manner in which he thought the Scotch Brigade might be most beneficially employed, we desired him to write a pri-

vate letter to your Excellency's secretary containing his plan in detail; not thinking it right to take any further step in the business till the whole of our design is known in Ireland. To be sure if the Scotch Brigade are what I believe they are in the eye of the law, *British* troops, and if they can be employed serviceably, as I hope they may, in Ireland, the plan suggested by Lord George will furnish 10,000 men for the defence and protection of Ireland; and, at the same time, afford a great and essential addition to our force in America, where they will be much wanted early in the spring. As Lord George Germaine has no official correspondence with Ireland, we thought that the properest way for him to convey his sentiments to that country was a private letter to Sir John Blaquiere. I hope, therefore, that no wrong construction will be put upon this transaction, but that the plan will be well weighed and considered by your Excellency.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*December 24th*, 1775.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have been so much hurried of late, and more particularly since the return of the money bills, that it really has not been in my power to send your Lordship such an account from hence as I wished to have done at so critical a moment.

"The public business being, in a manner, concluded with not less advantage and credit to the Crown than to the satisfaction of this Kingdom in general, it gave me great concern to see the money bills returned with such alterations as made it impracticable for me to prevail upon the House to pass them. Any attempt on my part to enforce such a measure would have done me so much discredit, as to have made it impossible for me to do his Majesty any further service in this country.

* * * * * *

"I understand that the two clauses were struck out upon this principle; that the military force raised in every part of the British Empire was conceived to be the province of executive govern-

ment. Without meaning to express a doubt as to the principle on which the Privy Council proceeded, I shall take up no more of your Lordship's time at present than to acquaint you that the alterations in the stamp bill at any other time would scarce have been noticed, but the ferment that was raised against the other more important bill proved fatal to the stamp bill.

"Of the various difficulties in which my administration has been involved none have exceeded, or even equalled, those which I have lately encountered. If the greatest pains had not been taken to check the ferment and intemperance that appeared in the House of Commons, the very extraordinary efforts that were made by Opposition to send back the money bill with the same clauses that had been struck out, would not have been defeated, as they were, to the disappointment and mortification of those who wished to throw every thing into confusion.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

"*December 28th*, 1775.

"MY LORD,—I am unwilling to wait for the return of the money bills before I state to your

Lordship the very great and unforeseen difficulties that may arise with regard to the 4,000 men, if the critical circumstances of affairs in America should make it necessary for his Majesty to employ them out of this Kingdom.

* * * * * *

"Your Lordship knows what was the fate of the money bill on its return here. It gave occasion to the most violent heats that have appeared since I came to Ireland. The most prudent friends of government could scarce be restrained within the bounds of decency. Even the confidential servants of the Crown themselves, those, at least, who, at the meetings in my apartment, had declared the necessity of making a provision in the money bill to *enable* his Majesty to send out of the Kingdom the 4,000 men, made no difficulty to declare, and in the most explicit terms, that it would be unlawful (the two clauses being struck out of the bill) to send a man of the 12,000 out of this Kingdom. This was understood to be the general sense of the House. If there was any difference of opinion no man ventured to avow it. Some gentlemen, who foresaw to what straits government was reduced by this fatal dilemma, endeavoured to prepare an explanatory clause to be introduced into the new bill, nearly of the same import as the two rejected clauses. But, from the danger of inserting any clause that might be liable

to objection on the other side, it was thought advisable to send over the new bill without it. It is now submitted to the consideration of your Lordship and his Majesty's servants in England, whether it might not be expedient to send us over the *sketch* of a short bill, so framed as to steer clear of the prerogative of the Crown; and at the same time to remove all objections on this side to the legality of sending the 4,000 men out of the Kingdom except in case of invasion, or of rebellion in Great Britain. For if any thing of that sort had been deemed proper in England, it would probably have been inserted in the bill that came back; and instead of leaving out the two clauses the advisers of the Crown would have altered them so as to have answered their purpose.

"However clear and indisputable the right of the Crown may be to dispose of these troops in consequence of the addresses of the two Houses of Parliament only, yet such, my Lord, are the prejudices that unfortunately prevail in favour of a very different opinion, that my duty to his Majesty, and a due regard and attention to the welfare of this Government, oblige me to lay before your Lordship the very serious difficulties that will unavoidably occur in sending away the 4,000 men, unless the most prudent means are made use of to remove them.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*January 1st*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,— . . . . I am unwilling to take up any more of your Lordship's time than to assure you that there appears to be something more than a disinclination towards the Scotch-Dutch troops; and if, instead of the German Protestant troops, which, it is conceived, were not intended to be a burthen on this establishment, a proposal should be made to receive the Scotch in *lieu* of them, and to place them on this establishment, I very much fear that the whole influence of the Castle would not be sufficient to carry the measure in parliament.

"In the situation I have the honour to fill I consider it as much a part of my duty to state such difficulties as arise, as it is to do every thing in my power and to the best of my abilities, to remove them. I hope what I have said will meet with no unfavourable construction, and that I shall never be thought wanting in zeal to forward his Majesty's service.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

"*January 8th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—At the same time that I acknowledge the honour of your Lordship's letters of the 1st instant, that signify to me his Majesty's pleasure for eight regiments to prepare for foreign service, and the method intended for making good the deficiencies on this establishment, I cannot but confess I never received a dispatch that gave me so much concern and uneasiness. I am persuaded it cannot be his Majesty's intention to reduce me to the mortifying dilemma of paying immediate obedience to his Majesty's commands, at the expense of my honour and reputation, and in direct contradiction to my judgment, and to, what I apprehend to be, the general sense of this nation.

"That I may give your Lordship as little trouble as possible, I beg leave to send you the enclosed extracts from two of my letters to Lord North of the 26th and 30th of November last. They seem so full and explicit on the subject matter of this letter, that any addition to them might rather weaken than strengthen the opinion, to which every day's experience convinces me more and more I ought most invariably to adhere.

"But if the measures of Government are absolutely determined, and the orders transmitted to me are irrevocable; if eight regiments, instead of six, are to be sent out of this Kingdom, or even six, merely on the addresses of the two Houses, followed by a law that contradicts those addresses, and without any other parliamentary provision for that purpose, I must, with a degree of reluctance and regret, proportionable to my duty and attachment to his Majesty, most humbly request him to appoint some other person to execute those orders, which, I apprehend, may be, in their consequences, most fatal to his Majesty's government and to the peace and good order of this Kingdom.

"I am gone, my Lord, too far already not to be fully sensible of my situation, which is the most cruel and unmerited that ever fell to the share of a man whose life has been invariably devoted to the service of his Prince. I might have expected a very different catastrophe from what I am likely to meet; but, let the event be what it will, I am prepared for it; and though I see myself reduced to the necessity of sacrificing the fairest expectations of his Majesty's esteem and favour, which I value above all things, yet I shall still have the satisfaction to think that I have done my duty to my King and Country.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. After giving, this day, the Royal assent

to the two rejected money bills, the parliament adjourned to the 31st instant, with a view to give his Majesty's ministers as much time as was possible to adjust and provide for this important business."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*January 8th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Enclosed I send your Lordship the copy of a letter I have just wrote to Lord Weymouth, in answer to his official letter, which I take the liberty to send you. When you have perused the contents of them, you will be fully convinced that, circumstanced as I was, and required, in the most peremptory manner, to carry into execution measures so very different from those that were originally proposed, I have been reduced to the necessity of putting an end to my political existence; for I foresee that will be the natural consequence of my answer to Lord Weymouth.

"I have barely time to apologize for the liberty I have taken in transmitting to Lord Weymouth the extracts from two letters I wrote to your Lordship. They were so full, and contained so entirely the substance of what I thought most material, that I was, in a manner, forced to have recourse to them.

"The time presses me so as not to allow me leisure to assure your Lordship that, let what will be my fate, I shall ever retain the most grateful sense of your most honourable behaviour towards me. I shall take the liberty, on another occasion, of troubling you with my sentiments more at large, but not more cordially or affectionately.

"Yours, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*January 11th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The last time I did myself the honour to write your Lordship I had but just time to let you know the steps I had been obliged to take on a late very interesting occasion; and to refer you to some parts of my former letters to prove that my sentiments with regard to the 4,000 men have been uniform and consistent.

"From the moment I received his Majesty's commands for the eight regiments to prepare for foreign service, I have considered myself virtually recalled from this Government, and my principal concern has been to quit it in the manner the least likely to obstruct those measures which I could not, in honour, carry into effect.

"If the augmentation of the Irish army, which was attempted in the year 1767, and was carried out in 1769, owed its success to his Majesty's

message, which was considered as binding, in that particular instance, on the part of the Crown, it will sufficiently justify my doubts, and the part I have taken in consequence of them. I know of no man so capable of satisfying your Lordship, as to those particulars, as Lord Townshend; for he, who was best acquainted with the difficulties which attended that measure, cannot be a stranger to the true motives that prevailed at that time in its favour. Your Lordship will not be surprised that I am anxious to have this matter rightly understood for the justification of my own conduct, which I wish to clear from the imputation of obstructing his Majesty's service.

"With real pleasure I can acquaint your Lordship that the revenue from Lady day, 1775, to the 2nd January, 1776, amounts to £83,550 more than it produced from Lady day, 1774, to Christmas, 1774. The particulars I send your Lordship; and, when the year's account is completed, the total of the year's increase will, I hope, fall little short of £100,000. This advance of the revenue is the more satisfactory, as it tends to shew that I have not been inattentive to the improvement of the revenue; and that Sir John Blaquiere's abilities and labours have not been fruitlessly employed.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt:—

"PRIVATE.

"*January 16th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have received your Excellency's letter of the 8th instant, which will be immediately laid before the King's confidential servants. It gives me great concern that a measure which was thought so essential for the publick service, should seem to your Excellency so difficult in the execution, and so inconsistent with the security of the country under your administration. Your honor and reputation are objects of the King's attention; and his Majesty's servants can never be unobservant of any circumstance that can, in the smallest degree, bring you into difficulties. I beg leave to add that every regard, on my part, shall be paid to your feelings upon this occasion; and that you shall have the earliest information of any thing that shall be determined on this measure.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"12 *o'clock at night, January 16th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is very late, and your messenger is waiting in my hall ; I cannot, however, think of letting him go without expressing the uneasiness that your letter has given me. I do assure your Excellency, in the first place, that it is not the desire of his Majesty nor of his servants to distress you or to oblige you to quit your office. I am sure that they would find it very difficult to put any other person in your place. I hope to send you, in a day or two, a short abstract of the reasons which induced the law officers of the Crown to advise the omission of the two clauses in the money bill ; which, whether convincing or not, will, I am confident, prove to your Excellency that the alterations complained of might have been made without any view of distressing the government, or encroaching upon the legislature of Ireland. Mr. Lees will tell you that we have had under consideration how far we may with propriety consent to an act of parliament to remove the supposed difficulty concerning the 4,000 men ; and what sketch we can send over in

accordance with your Excellency's desire. If such a one can be framed, it shall be sent to Ireland before the end of the week. As to the eight regiments instead of the six, it was determined to order them to be kept in readiness that we might have a large force early in the spring. As to the augmentation of the dragoons and horse, it was suggested as an augmentation that might easily be made, notwithstanding the present difficulty of recruiting the infantry, and as one that would be very serviceable for the domestick uses of the country ; it would supply also, in part, the two additional regiments taken out of the Kingdom. It is, however, the King's intention, as soon as he can do it, to replace these two regiments by two from England. Another motive for this method of recruiting the horse and dragoons was, that, upon your Excellency's representations, the King laid aside the purpose of augmenting the Irish army with the Scotch brigade from Holland. Some military men here likewise approve of having dismounted dragoons ; and Preston's regiment now in Boston with Burgoyne's, which is going to America, are accordingly attended by a certain proportion of dismounted soldiers.

"I write so fast that I am afraid your Excellency will hardly be able to read my letter, but I trust that you will be able to decipher enough to shew you that you are not reduced to that

dilemma that you apprehend. If you were, I should consider it as a great misfortune to the publick, the King, and, if I may mention myself after them, to your faithful humble servant.

"P.S. His Majesty has not told me when he proposes to send the two regiments from England, but I suppose it will not be long before he does. They may perhaps be in Ireland before the eight regiments ordered for America can set sail. I will write to your Excellency again in a short time, till when I beg leave to refer myself to Mr. Lees, with whom I have had two conversations this morning.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*January 19th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I beg leave to trouble your Lordship with the enclosed papers. They were received yesterday from Cork, and will shew your Lordship how unable this establishment is to part with eight regiments, without manifest danger to the peace and quiet of this Kingdom. Your Lordship will see that the numbers required to make up the deficiencies in the regiments that are embarked amount to no less than 369, and are more than equivalent to some of the weak regiments on this establishment.

"I had reason to believe, some time ago, that the recruiting service would have been more successful than it has proved to be. The recruits were then coming in to the amount of about 400 a week; but instead of raising them at that rate, which would speedily have completed this establishment, I am sorry to say that we do not, at present, raise recruits enough to make good what we lose by desertion and the common casualties of the service.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

"*January 22nd*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have laid before the King your Excellency's two letters of the 28th December and 8th instant. I am commanded by his Majesty to acquaint you that the present situation of affairs makes it essentially necessary that eight regiments should be taken from Ireland early in the spring. His Majesty's confidential servants and law officers are clearly of opinion the Crown has a right to dispose of these troops in consequence of the addresses of the two houses of parliament only. Yet, as your Excellency acquaints me that prejudices unfortunately prevail in the Kingdom under your administration, in favor of a different opinion, and that your Excellency thinks your own honour and reputation are concerned in this measure, his Majesty, from these considerations, commands me to inform you that he has no objections to a declaratory act, the heads of which I transmit to your Excellency. At the same time, I am to acquaint you that you must be fully satisfied that such a bill will pass both houses, before you consent to its being proposed.

"With respect to the security of the country, to which his Majesty pays the most constant attention, I am to acquaint your Excellency that the 21st and 31st regiments will be sent from hence on the embarkation of the eight regiments now under orders.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*January 22nd*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—At the same time that your Excellency receives this letter you will receive, in a dispatch from the Secretary of State's office, a sketch of an act of parliament, which, in the opinion of his Majesty's servants, may be passed without prejudice to the prerogative of the Crown. The publick service requiring that the eight regiments should sail for America early in the spring, we flatter ourselves that this act will be sufficient to induce the parliament and people of Ireland to acquiesce willingly in their departure.

"Your Excellency is already fully apprised that the King's servants here consider the addresses of the two Houses of the Irish parliament as sufficient to authorise his Majesty to send away the troops in question, and that we do not esteem this or any other act in the least degree necessary. As your Excellency, however, conceives some parliamentary proceeding requisite for your own honour and reputation, and for the satisfaction of Ireland, we have not the least objection to the

sketch enclosed in Lord Weymouth's letter, which, we hope, will contribute to remove the present ill-humour. Perhaps of all parliamentary proceedings the most regular and unexceptionable would be to send messages to the two Houses, informing them that, in consequence of their addresses, his Majesty had ordered six regiments to embark for America; to which they should, respectively, return answers of approbation. This, however, I only suggest for your Excellency's consideration. Our wish is to accommodate your Excellency's government, and to remove the uneasiness expressed by some members of the Irish parliament. Whichever method, either the messages and addresses last mentioned, or the act of parliament enclosed in the Secretary of State's letter, will best contribute to the end we have in view, will, in our opinion, be the most eligible. If your Excellency should prefer proceeding by act, two points seem important to be observed before the heads of the bill are moved in the House of Commons; the bill must not be known to have been drawn on this side of the water, and it must not be ventured unless with a very fair prospect of success. If it should be moved and rejected, we should be in a worse situation with respect to the troops than we are at present.

"So much for the act of parliament. As the two additional regiments are to be replaced from

hence, I suppose all your Excellency's difficulties on that head are over; and I imagine there can be but little objection to the small augmentation of dismounted dragoons, who will be easily raised, and, in the judgment of military men, very useful both in the case of actual service and for domestick business in time of peace, as well as during the absence of those troops which the present exigency of affairs obliges his Majesty to withdraw from Ireland.

"Before I leave this subject I think it right to say a few words upon the two clauses which were omitted in the money bill, because that alteration has been the source of so much uneasiness and altercation, and because it has, I believe, been misunderstood on your side of the water. There is nothing clearer, in the opinion of every lawyer here, than that the preamble of an act of parliament barely *reciting* certain facts and the grounds for passing the act, but neither *declaring* nor *enacting* any thing *to be law*, has not the binding force of a statute. It would, therefore, certainly have been *unnecessary* at least to have passed an act to make that lawful which no prior statute had made unlawful; but the objection did not rest there. If it were not necessary to leave the two clauses in the bill, it might have been of *very pernicious consequence* to have left them. It would, in the first place, have given countenance to the dangerous practice of tacking to the heads of money bills matters of a different nature; and it might seem to admit that a message from the Crown, with the preamble of an Irish act of parliament, could repeal a British act of parliament, and alter an established rule of the Constitution. There was not a member of the Privy Council who entertained the least suspicion that the clauses had been inserted in Ireland with any insidious design. We did the justice to the House of Commons and Privy Council of Ireland to believe that the clauses appeared to them necessary; but, as upon a review of them by the law officers of the Crown they were found to be unnecessary, we thought it our duty to strike them out.

"The point was sometime under the consideration of the Council, and the act of 1769 carefully read. Our sentiments were unanimous. We all considered the preamble as *a record of a promise* made by the King, which it would be very *unbecoming* in him, but not *unlawful*, to break. We looked upon his Majesty as acquitted in *honour* by the addresses of the two Houses of Parliament; and we could not find a word in the Irish statute book by which he was bound *in law*. I must do that justice to all the Attorney-Generals that I have remembered, to say that I believe they have made their reports according to the best of their judgments, and not with any view to

party or faction. If they have not done so, considering how much the Privy Council is guided by them, they have certainly been guilty of a very high and dangerous breach of duty. As to the case in question, I am persuaded that, except the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, no person whatever knew the contents of their report, before it was submitted to the Council. Very few members of the Cabinet were present. The other Privy Councillors were in a greater number, though it was by no means a full committee. There was not the least appearance of concert or intrigue, and every resolution was taken without a dissenting voice.

"Before the resolution of the committee was confirmed by the King in Council, Mr. Allan arrived in London, and started in conversation with me the same opinion which prevails in Ireland. The Council was delayed. I desired Mr. Allan to point out to me by what law the King was obliged to maintain 12,000 men constantly in Ireland; but, after having heard every thing that could be said in favour of his opinion, and maturely reconsidered the question, I could not find any sufficient reason for bringing the business again before the Committee of Council. In the course of this business I perceived in no man the least unwillingness to give the fullest attention to every thing that could be said in favour of returning the clauses; and must declare it as my sincere opinion that in the whole of that transaction there was not the least inclination in any person here to give uneasiness to your Excellency. On the contrary, I have found in general a great readiness to facilitate your Excellency's wishes.

"I am afraid I have been tedious, but your Excellency's letters have alarmed me both on the Publick account, and on my own; and I wish to remove every misunderstanding that may prejudice his Majesty's service.

"I have laid before the King your Excellency's applications for pensions and bounties, and the manner in which you would recommend the distribution of them. I will not conceal from you that he was a good deal startled at the greatness of the demand, so much beyond any that he had ever yet received; but I have the satisfaction to acquaint you that his Majesty, being desirous of giving your Excellency every support, will consent to the whole arrangement contained in Sir John Blaquiere's letter to Mr. Robinson of the 15th of December, if you think it necessary. I am sorry to say that I cannot return the same affirmative to your request for Sir John. His Majesty has always laid it down as a rule that the Secretary of the Lord Lieutenant should, if possible, be provided for by such offices as have been usually given to his predecessors, without

being a burthen upon the revenue; unless the Lord Lieutenant should not have, during his government, an opportunity of providing for him in that manner; in which case his Majesty will, as he has done in another instance, consent to grant him a pension.

"Your Excellency will have received, by this time, the King's letters in consequence of the addresses of the House of Lords, upon which I have only to observe that, considering the very little business a speaker of the House of Lords in Ireland has to do, he is nobly rewarded. The merit of the present Lord Chancellor is undoubtedly great, but these rewards, being granted to the office and not to the man, are more properly estimated by the fatigues of the office, than by the personal qualities of the officer. By the various additions made to the income of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland I compute that his office must, by this time, be worth about £8,500 a year, which is, I believe, above £2,000 per annum more than is received by the Chief Justice of England.

"I understand, from Sir John Blaquiere's letter, that the House of Commons, in recommending salaries of £3,500 per annum to the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells, intended that they should receive in England above £2,500 a year. That being the case, the King's letter must be so drawn as to excuse them from the payment

of the sixpenny poundage; and, indeed, it seems most natural that they should be allowed to retain in their hands, every quarter, one fourth of their salary. They will, otherwise, be subject to delays, to which they were not liable when they were paid by fees. I mention these circumstances as I am informed that your Excellency has a draft of a King's letter for the payment of these salaries now under consideration.

"I have been much solicited by Lord Lyttelton to apply to your Excellency in behalf of his brother-in-law, Lord Valentia; and I have undertaken to desire you to recommend him for a seat at the council board, and to appoint him a trustee of the linen manufacture, whenever you can do so consistently with prior engagements. It is possible that this may embarrass your Excellency, and I shall be sorry for it; but it would be of service to me if you would return me a favorable answer, and send his name to his Majesty as a Privy Councillor amongst the first promotions that you recommend.

"I apprehend that it is not necessary now to enter into any discussion concerning Peerages. I shall hope that his Majesty will, in the next creation of Irish Peers, include some members of the British Parliament. Their names, and the titles they desire, shall soon be communicated to your Excellency. "I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*January 22nd*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—In my letter to your Excellency which I wrote this morning, I forgot to mention one matter of great importance. The immense quantity of provisions that we shall want for our armies in North America; the demands from the West India Islands which, from henceforward, must be furnished almost entirely from Ireland; the orders from the French and Spaniards, which, as we are informed, are likely to be very considerable; render it absolutely necessary to lay an embargo on all provisions exported from Ireland to foreign parts, in order to confine the exportation entirely to our own armies and to the British dominions. We have postponed the embargo as long as possible, but it now becomes unavoidable.

"I trust that the Irish gentlemen and merchants will not think they have any reason to complain, as there is a real danger that his Majesty's own subjects and soldiers may be in excessive want of provisions; and as our demands will be so large that we shall certainly, in the course of the next year, take their whole stock off their hands, I thought it right to give your Excellency this notice, and you will probably in a few days receive an order to lay the embargo.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*January 24th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have had the favour of your Lordship's letter, and am really more obliged to you than I have words to express. Your friendship does me great honour, and I should be very sorry to do any thing to forfeit it. When the particular circumstances of my late conduct are considered, they will appear in no unfavourable light. It has ever been my ambition to employ whatever credit I have here for the advancement of his Majesty's interest; and while I act a consistent part it may be in my power to do his Majesty some little service. I have endeavoured to be punctiliously observant of my engagements with the people of this country; which has been of no small advantage to me on several occasions. If I am attentive to matters that immediately concern my own character, I ought not to be less attentive to what are ever supposed to be the engagements of the Crown. Though the gentlemen of the long robe may not think the Crown is absolutely engaged, by the declaration in the money bill, not to withdraw any part of the 12,000 men from this Kingdom;

yet, if it happens to be the prevailing and general opinion that it is binding as an engagement on the part of the Crown, not to be done away by the addresses of the two Houses, and that the engagement was considered as the price of the augmentation in 1769; would it not, my dear Lord, have been highly criminal in me to have betrayed the Crown into a measure the most impolitic, with regard to this country, that could be proposed, because the most likely to destroy that mutual confidence which ought ever to subsist between his Majesty and his subjects? If I had treated this subject with less freedom I should have been wanting in my duty; for, by concealing from his Majesty the true state of things, I might have involved this government in endless difficulties.

"I hope I have said enough to exculpate myself, and that I shall not be thought to have acted in a manner inconsistent with my duty to the King, and my most unalterable attachment to his person. If what I have urged should happen to have so much weight in his Majesty's Councils as to remove the difficulties that have alarmed me, and make it practicable for me to serve his Majesty any longer in this station, I shall continue to do it with the greatest zeal and attention to the end of this session, and till such time as the new parliament is chosen. And, if

I have the good fortune to see such a one as his Majesty shall approve of, I shall then make it my most humble request to be removed from this responsible station, which is attended with too many cares and anxieties for a person of my time of life.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*March 25th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Mr. Lees, who leaves this place early to-morrow morning, will deliver to your Excellency two ostensible letters from me; one respecting Mr. Pery, and the other Mr. Flood. Your Excellency will know how to make the proper use of them. With respect to the first, as there is an allusion to his Majesty, some caution will be necessary in the communication of it.

"With these two letters your Excellency will receive his Majesty's consent to the Peerages you have recommended. He has still some difficulty about the Marquisates, which, he apprehends, will give offence to the Earls of Great Britain, and will induce some applications for the same rank and title here. I am not, therefore, able to give an affirmative answer to this part of your Excellency's list of honours; but for the Peerages, Baronetcies, and advancements in the Peerage, your Excellency may venture to recommend them with assurance of success. There is, however, the Peerage for Mrs. St. Leger (for which Lord Townshend was earnest some time ago, out of respect

to the memory of Mr. St. Leger, and for the sake of his family), which nobody seems to have now much at heart, and which, unless your Excellency sees any reason for pressing it, may perhaps be postponed, especially as the person who is the immediate object of it is, as I am informed, leading no very reputable life in a foreign country.

"His Majesty's opinion upon the proposition for the Duke of Leinster and his friends is entered in the margin of a paper that Mr. Lees carries with him, and will, I hope, be satisfactory.

"I am sorry that, by some mistake, your Excellency should have received, from the Secretary of State, a disapprobation of the manner you took to complete the 4,000 men. You may depend upon it that I have done justice to your zeal for his Majesty's service, in your plan of completing the regiments for the American army, and that his Majesty is sensible of it. The letter was written hastily upon a military complaint, made without knowledge of the real state of the case.

"It is with real concern that I foresee a dispute between English government and the Irish parliament upon the old subject of the money bill. The entry in our Council books of the proceedings in 1760 is so formal; the proceedings themselves were so solemn; the practice of certifying money bills so uniform; the danger of our deviating from the ancient course so alarming to many

persons on this side of the water; that we shall, I believe, be forced to adhere to former usage. That our bill will be rejected is certain. What I hope is that it may be rejected without reasons, and the repetition of the transactions of 1768 be thereby avoided. If there is any point upon which all parties here have always agreed, and upon which the chiefs of all parties have declared themselves, it is upon the maintenance of the ancient Constitution of Ireland. Whatever alterations time may have introduced we cannot countenance them by any act of the Privy Council without incurring universal censure.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March 25th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—While your Excellency is busied in your preparations for meeting the new parliament in Ireland, I hope you will forgive me if I trouble you with a few words upon the choice of a Speaker. Although I should imagine that the great satisfaction Mr. Pery has given during the whole course of the present parliament must ensure his success against any other candidate, I must beg leave to recommend his cause to your favor, and to desire that you will give him every assistance that you can with propriety. The high esteem

which I have conceived for him makes me earnestly desirous of seeing him again in the Chair; but I should not presume to recommend him thus warmly to your Excellency, if I were not convinced that the choice would be extremely useful, as well as creditable, to the parliament and Kingdom of Ireland, and if I could not venture to add that it will be very agreeable in a quarter where your Excellency will always wish to give satisfaction.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March 25th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I beg pardon for not having answered the letters which your Excellency has honored me with upon the subject of Mr. Flood, but I really am not yet able to give a satisfactory, or even a perfectly decisive, answer. This he will probably have learnt by this time, if the Bishop of Chester has reported to him a short conversation I had with his Lordship upon the same business. That I should be very happy to have the assistance of Mr. Flood's abilities in the House of Commons cannot admit of a doubt, but I am really so embarrassed by a variety of applications for seats in the House of Commons to which I am obliged to give attention, that I cannot at present

venture to promise to bring Mr. Flood or any other person into parliament. Several of my friends were unsuccessful candidates at the general election; others have been since displaced by the decisions of the Committees of election; so that many persons are to be served, and few, very few, opportunities offer of serving them. Your Excellency sees how impossible it is for me, as yet, to undertake to procure a seat for Mr. Flood in our House of Commons; and I have so often drawn myself into perplexity and distress by entering into engagements for distant periods, that I hope your Excellency will not expect me to make any promise which I am not pretty sure of following immediately by the performance. In the meanwhile I must desire your Excellency to assure Mr. Flood that I think myself much obliged to him for his proposal, and that there is no person on this side of the water who will be readier, on all occasions, to obey his commands than, &c."

From Lord North to Sir John Blaquiere:—

"*March 25th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—I am glad to learn from you that the return of the election bill, even castrated as it was, gave satisfaction in Ireland. It was with great difficulty that more alterations were prevented; for, to be sure, at the first view, such regulations at the eve of a general election did not appear to indifferent spectators, proper, usual, decent, or fair. We, who know the necessity of the measure, maintained the whole except the tenure years in the borough clause, which appeared the most manifestly calculated to favour the interests of particular men, and was, in that light, very offensive to several of the Council.

"I rejoice to find that your revenues have turned out so well this year. If this election year does not cause any jobs in the management of the revenues, it will, I apprehend, rather increase the excise. However, I would not have the canvassing last, on that account, a moment longer than it is necessary. You will receive, in a few days, his Majesty's authority for dissolving the parliament and calling a new one. There are strong reasons that oblige us to persist in the old custom of requiring that a money bill may be certified as a cause of calling the new parliament. I am sorry for it, as I foresee a very unpleasant dispute with your new House of Commons, unless you can prevail upon them to be satisfied with rejecting the bill without the addition of offensive reasons.

"Adieu, dear Sir;

"Believe me ever, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*March 27th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Irish messenger is returning with the official authority for the dissolution of parliament. Soon after you receive the packet he carries with him, the post will bring your Excellency a letter from the Secretary of State respecting the government of the army in Ireland, which will not, I am afraid, coincide with your sentiments. My attachment and regard to your Excellency, and my desire of standing well in your opinion, make it, therefore, necessary for me to assure you that I had no share in forming these regulations; and that his Majesty's resolution had been declared, and Lord Weymouth's letter written, before I had any communication of the proposed arrangement. Indeed I believe that military advice had been principally relied upon in forming the plan; and that the Secretary of State, though the writer of the letter, had not much more concern in it than your humble servant.

"I do not mention these circumstances in order to find fault with the design, of which I am not, perhaps, a proper judge; although, upon reading the rules, I cannot help, at first sight, being of opinion that some of them are more likely to create than to remove disagreements between the

Lord Lieutenant and the Commander in chief. My principal reason for troubling you is to prevent any hasty resolution your Excellency may take on the receipt of Lord Weymouth's letter. I probably fancy dangers which do not exist; but, in a matter that concerns the publick so intimately, I cannot help feeling great uneasiness. If your Excellency should think it necessary to quit your station immediately you would infinitely distress your humble servant; and, what is of more importance, the affairs of his Majesty and the Publick. I trust, however, that as your Excellency has already signified your intention of resigning your employment in a short time, you will not think yourself bound in honor to advance the moment of your resignation. If you should see any serious and solid objections to the plan proposed, I should rather wish that you would, in your answer to the Secretary of State, set them forth in a full, firm, and temperate manner. Your Excellency's advice in your present situation, as it cannot affect yourself, would have great weight, be very honorable to yourself, and, possibly, beneficial to your successors and the publick.

"Your Excellency will excuse the trouble of this letter from the motive of it, which I can safely declare to be a desire to prevent any mischief to his Majesty's service, and to shew my real and warm attachment to your Excellency. I need

not desire you to keep this letter secret. I write in a great hurry, which you will excuse.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. I thought it might be convenient to your Excellency to accompany my letter by a copy of Lord Weymouth's, which you will, by this means, receive a short time before the arrival of the post.

"N."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth:—

"*January 28th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 22nd, enclosing heads of a declaratory act, to obviate the doubts with respect to the sending 4,000 men out of this Kingdom; stating the very urgent necessity there is for taking eight regiments upon the present situation of affairs; and his Majesty's intention of sending into Ireland, upon the embarkation of these regiments, the 21st and 31st regiments.

"As I have so fully, in my former letters on this head, mentioned what appeared to me to be the general sense of gentlemen in this Kingdom, together with my own humble opinion and apprehensions on the subject, I shall not now trouble your Lordship with a single word more than appears to me indispensably necessary.

"With respect to the heads of the bill which your Lordship has sent me, I must beg leave to observe, that it will, in my opinion, be essential to alter or transpose some words in the latter part of it, in order to avoid all possibility of doubt

with regard to the payment of these forces. And the words I shall propose are these; that after the word 'Relate,' the paragraph may run thus, '*so far as they relate to the four thousand men to be sent out of this Kingdom*,' and which I hold to be indispensable; as I am persuaded the House of Commons will expect that the charge of paying these troops, when out of the Kingdom, must, in some shape or other, be avowed.

"These words appear to me to be the least exceptionable; and, as they relate alone to supply, I should hope they will meet with no difficulty at the hands of any of his Majesty's servants; as I presume it could not have been the intention of the framers of the clause to raise a doubt upon the subject. With this small alteration it is my opinion such heads of a bill would pass this House of Commons. Your Lordship would not, I am persuaded, wish that I should pledge myself for the absolute certainty of an event which it is not in my power to command; but, in the hopes and expectation of your Lordship's returning it to me, and without delay, in the manner I have desired, I have, this day, ordered the eight regiments to prepare to embark for foreign service, and have the honour to be, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth:—

(Duplicate sent to Lord North.)

"*February 5th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Among the bills that go over this evening there is an act for making the Commissions of Judges to continue *quamdiu se bene gesserint*. This bill was first moved and rejected in the House of Lords, but it afterwards was moved and passed in the House of Commons, and met with a more favourable reception in the Council than it deserved; owing, partly, to the Council's not being very well attended, and partly to the complaisance of some members of the Privy Council, who paid a greater deference to the opinions of the Lord Chief Justices than they ought to have done on that occasion. I am persuaded that, the state of this country duly considered, it would be very unadvisable to make the Commissions of Judges to continue during such a tenure; and so many inconveniences would infallibly result from such a bill, that I trust it will not be deemed proper to return it to Ireland.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Mr. Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury :—

"*February 5th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR SIR,—The warmest acknowledgments bear no proportion to my feelings for the exceeding anxiety and kindness of your letter dictated to Lees. I own, however, there is somewhat in this whole business on your side the water that strikes me with astonishment as well as with disappointment.

"The question appears to me not a question of legal refinement, as to whether the King is bound *by law* to keep 12,000 men in Ireland. The question is, how far his Majesty can most easily and effectually get rid of his engagement to his people of Ireland, without the imputation of breach of faith, without sacrificing the honour of his representative, and without risking the loss of the affections of his subjects in this quiet and peaceable Kingdom. All the lawyers who have spoken upon the subject, in debate, have given their opinions against the power of moving the forces.

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"All the great officers of state have concurred in that view without a negative.

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"My Lord North wished to have 4,000 men for his Majesty's service in America. They are no sooner had, than his Excellency is told he was too expeditious in meeting his Majesty's wishes. Foreigners are offered to replace them. The offer is refused by the Irish parliament; whereupon his Majesty is said to be displeased, and the message promising payment from the British treasury for the 4,000 men is disclaimed.

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"My Lord Harcourt has been very unfortunate indeed, and the humble aspirations of his Secretary will be most miserably disappointed, if, after carrying every measure that had been thought most necessary, during the course of two critical and difficult sessions, this laborious but ill-fated scene is to conclude with a prospect of the King's displeasure. A displeasure founded upon the misrepresentation of those who are supposed to have hostile intentions, ostensibly to Lord Harcourt's, but, in truth, to Lord North's, administration. It is in vain to speak or write more upon such a subject.

"And now, my dear friend, that I have thrown my whole heart before you, give me leave, in the

warmest emotions of it, to offer you those affectionate acknowledgments that are due to your uniform kindness and flattering attention to your faithful, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*February 8th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The House is still sitting on the revenue bill, in which a considerable progress will be made this week, if gentlemen can be prevailed upon to postpone taking into consideration the proclamation for laying an embargo on provisions. This has occasioned great uneasiness here, from an apprehension of its putting a stop to the exportation of corn, at a time when grain of all sorts is in greater plenty than it was ever known to be in this Kingdom.

"Sir John Blaquiere will give your Lordship a more particular account of the effect which the embargo may have if the exportation of all sorts of grain is thereby proposed to be stopped. Considering the cheapness of all kind of corn at this time in North America, I can scarce believe such a prohibition to be intended by Great Britain.

"I have my doubts as to the effects the embargo may have on other provisions, because I fear the purpose of government may in some measure be defeated by the quantities of salted

stuffs that have already been exported. Of 9,000 barrels of beef that the French contracted for at Cork, 6,900 were shipped off before the 22nd of December; and part of 3,000 barrels which were contracted for at Dublin have already been sent away. But your Lordship shall soon have a more accurate account of these articles from,

"My dear Lord, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*February 15th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The House of Commons sat last night upon the consideration of the declaratory law until 9 o'clock. The gentlemen in opposition complained exceedingly of the insufficiency and inadequacy of the heads of a bill. They again asserted the legal obligation upon the King to keep 12,000 men constantly in this Kingdom, and that this not being an enabling act was an artful delusion of administration. The Prime Serjeant again declared his former opinion expressly, that the King was legally bound; and in this he speaks the sentiments of all the Shannons (Lord Shannon being at his elbow). The Provost repeatedly declared that the man who should advise touching one of the 12,000 men, without being warranted by a law, would be the object of Parliamentary impeachment, and ought

to lose his head. The Attorney-General, who was present by express desire, never opened his mouth to assert his Majesty's right to remove the forces by law; though it is said that his Majesty's servants in Great Britain are unanimous in their opinion as to the matter of right. The Speaker was silent on the occasion. So that I am warranted to say that every man who has given his public opinion, has declared that the King is, by the augmentation clause in the money bill, legally or constitutionally, as well as personally, bound to keep at all times except in cases of rebellion or invasion, in Great Britain, 12,000 men in this Kingdom. I have been the more particular on this subject, from my wish to justify the earnestness with which I took the liberty of urging the necessity of a declaratory law to warrant the removing these forces.

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"Several amendments were proposed, but the principal one, on which the House divided, was 'that such part of his Majesty's army as shall be spared out of this Kingdom shall not be continued a charge on this establishment so long as they shall remain out of this Kingdom.' The result of the division was the Noes 70, the Ayes only 25. This, I hope, will be the last your Lordship will hear on this subject. I thank God it has ended well, and, upon the whole, I flatter myself

the Crown will be no loser by this declaratory act.

"I am, &c.

"P.S. To-morrow, or on Saturday at furthest, it is thought we shall get through the revenue bill; after which there will be the Proclamation for the embargo, which will be taken into consideration on the 22nd; then there will be a short recess till the bills return."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*February 23rd*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My mind is so impressed with your Lordship's generous behaviour towards me on a late critical occasion, that I should be wanting to myself if I did not take the very earliest opportunity of making my most sincere acknowledgments for the very honourable testimony you gave of your approbation of my public conduct. I was under very little apprehension of any thing that could happen to me in consequence of Mr. Townshend's motion; but, I own, from your very responsible station, I was under some anxiety till I heard the result of the debate. The fact of the motion being in reality levelled at your Lordship, afforded you an opportunity of justifying your conduct.

"I must add how very timely the arrival of

your second proclamation was. If we had not received it before that matter was discussed in the House, I do, in my conscience, believe we should have lost the question, which, at this time, might have been attended with the most serious consequences.

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"I must entreat your Lordship's kind interposition with the Attorney and Solicitor Generals in behalf of our bills.

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"If we could have them all back by the 10th of March, we should have time to pass them by Lady day; after which we should be ready to obey his Majesty's commands whenever he should think proper to have this parliament dissolved. The great expense which gentlemen are liable to, who have contested elections, makes them extremely impatient, and desirous of getting their elections over as soon as possible. In addition also to the ease and convenience of the parties concerned, I may venture to assure you that nothing is more material for the welfare of this Kingdom than the shortening the time of riot and disorder that prevail before a general election. The sending back the bills, therefore, as soon as possible, will be for the advantage of his Majesty, and the good of the Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"*February 23rd*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have the honour of acquainting your Lordship, for his Majesty's information, that the 9th, 20th, and 34th regiments of foot, which make part of the six regiments now under orders of embarkation, are in motion from this garrison to Cork, where the whole will be assembled, pursuant to his Majesty's orders, by the 10th of next month.

"I have been revolving in my mind in what possible manner those corps, which, by the monthly state of the army for January, appear to want 848 men of their proper numbers on this Establishment, might be completed. This cannot be expected by recruiting, as it goes on so very slowly; and which, even if the men could be raised, would but indifferently answer the purpose of his Majesty's service on this very important occasion. It has occurred to me that, by means of the Kilmainham Pensioners who, previous to their being incorporated into Companies, might be embodied into the regiments remaining in Ireland, a very effectual draft of disciplined men might be made from those nine regiments into the six now ordered for embarkation. I have taken the opinion of General Gisborne, and he entirely concurs with me on the subject; I have, therefore, given orders

that the nine regiments which are to remain in this Kingdom shall furnish 90 drafts each towards supplying the said deficiency. This number, making 810 men, together with the recruits which may be supposed to be raised between this time and that of their embarkation, will probably more than fully complete those corps.

"I propose that, in order to replace, as far as possible, these drafts, the said nine regiments shall receive such of the Kilmainham Pensioners as shall appear to be most serviceable and fit for duty.

"I have directed the Commander in chief to order two guineas to each Pensioner so incorporated, in order to provide them with necessaries. They are, however, not to be sent out of this Kingdom, or put upon any severe duty, and there are, besides, many other regulations which General Gisborne has judiciously given for accommodating this scheme to the necessary services of the country. This measure will afford time to replace those pensioners by recruits, without lessening, I hope, in any material degree, the nominal strength of the infantry.

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"Your Lordship knows the difficulties under which we stand. It is, however, needless for me to trouble you with a recital of them.

"I have already employed several officers from

our half-pay to assist in the carrying on this business. I shall, at a future day, notify their names to your Lordship for commissions in the ten companies of invalids to be raised in this Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"*February 28th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—The heads of a bill for establishing a Militia for a limited time, and in such parts of this Kingdom as the Lord Lieutenant shall think fit, appear to me not undeserving the attention of your Lordship and the rest of his Majesty's servants.

"Your Lordship will find that the power of array is entirely in the hands of government. That it is in effect partial to such counties only as it may be thought expedient to arm. That the force may be used as a guard of police, which would be very advantageous in some counties; and prevent the risings that have so frequently disturbed them. That it, the force, would be liable to be called upon to support the officers of the revenue, under the authority of our writ of assistants. That the act, in point of time, is limited to three years. That the numbers of men are limited, which confines the expense.

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"That the measure will, in all probability, further the recruiting service of the army; as there is a clause which discharges from the Militia all such as shall enlist in the King's troops. Upon the whole, it is a bill which I wish to see returned to this country. I think it will be for the advantage of the Kingdom, and the benefit of his Majesty's government. I shall, therefore, take upon me warmly to recommend it to your Lordship's consideration and protection.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"*March 2nd*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—Sir John Irwin, Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in this Kingdom, in his letter to me of the 20th past, has informed me that his Majesty considers him Commander in chief of the army in Ireland, whether he be in London, or attending upon me in Ireland. In consequence, I have received from him military memorials and applications from London, which he has transmitted to me for my determination, in the same manner as if personally present here. I take the liberty of acquainting your Lordship, for his Majesty's information, that, in the absence of the Commander in chief from this Kingdom,

the practice has invariably been for the military business to be transacted by the general officer acting as Commander in chief for the time being. There is no precedent of any kind whatever to be found wherein an absent Commander in chief interfered officially in any public military matter which was to be submitted to this government. All orders and directions have always been addressed to the general commanding for the time being, in the forms expressed in the enclosed paper, which consists of extracts from the military books in my chief secretary's office.

"Your Lordship knows that, by his Majesty's instructions, I am directed to correspond with none but your Lordship and the Lords of the Treasury. I cannot, therefore, agreeably to those instructions, possibly receive his Majesty's pleasure through any other channel excepting that of his Majesty's Secretary at War through the hands of my chief secretary. I most humbly beg leave to request of your Lordship that I may be honoured with any commands his Majesty may think proper to give me through the usual channel.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt:—

"*March 4th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have received, and laid before the King, your Excellency's letter of the 23rd of last month. Soon after the date of that letter, your Excellency will have seen the measures taken here towards completing the six regiments under orders for embarkation at Cork; and, therefore, it would have been fortunate if you had postponed putting into execution the plan contained in your said letter, until it had been communicated to me for his Majesty's information.

"A ship with about 300 German recruits is now at sea, destined for Cork; two others are gone to Stade for more recruits for the same place, which will nearly complete the said regiments; and, therefore, as soon as your Excellency shall have been apprised of the steps taken here, you will certainly have stopped some of the drafts. It is his Majesty's pleasure that those not already drafted should be left with their corps, but those that have joined the six regiments should continue with them.

"I am to add, that his Majesty does not approve of your Excellency's having promised the men drafted from the out-pensioners of Kilmainham Hospital that they shall not go out of the Kingdom, as those on the Chelsea Pension have never that indulgence; and, indeed, 400 of them have been sent this year to Minorca.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"*March 13th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship's letter of the 4th instant, acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 23rd of last month, and signifying that it would have been fortunate if I had postponed putting into execution the plan contained in my said letter, until it had been communicated to your Lordship for his Majesty's information.

"You inform me that a ship, with about 300 German recruits is now at sea, destined for Cork. That two other ships are gone to Stade for more recruits for the same place; which would nearly complete the six regiments.

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"And that it is his Majesty's pleasure that those drafts which are not already transferred should be left with their corps; but that those who have joined the said six regiments should continue with them.

"You tell me that his Majesty does not approve of my having promised the men drafted from the

out-pensioners of Kilmainham that they should not go out of this Kingdom, as those on the Chelsea pension never had such an indulgence.

"In obedience to his Majesty's commands, above mentioned, I have issued orders to General Gisborne that those drafts which have not been already delivered should be left with their corps, but that those who have joined the said six regiments should continue with them.

"In answer to the other parts of your Lordship's letter, I beg leave to observe to you that, in your letter of 13th January, your Lordship signified to me his Majesty's pleasure that each of the regiments ordered for embarkation should be raised, with the utmost expedition, to the British Establishment of 677 men, officers included. Furthermore, that his Majesty relied upon my exerting my utmost endeavours to carry into execution that service in the speediest possible manner. In your Lordship's letter of the 13th February, you signified his Majesty's pleasure to me that the said six regiments should be ready to embark upon *the 10th of this instant March.* It was not until *the 4th of this month*, on which day I received your Lordship's letter dated the 28th past, that I had any intimation whatever of a body of German recruits being intended to complete those corps.

"It will, therefore, appear to your Lordship,

from the dates of these letters, that I must have failed exceedingly in my duty to his Majesty's commands for completing the said six regiments in the speediest manner, if I had protracted taking the necessary measures for that purpose until within six days of the time appointed by his Majesty for their embarkation. I trust that, when his Majesty shall have been informed of these circumstances, he will be satisfied that in every step I have taken in this matter I have endeavoured to justify that reliance upon my zeal for his service which his Majesty was graciously pleased to express; and that if there has been any failure in fulfilling his Majesty's intentions, it will be imputed to my not having received timely notice of them.

"With regard to the promise given to the out-pensioners, your Lordship will give me leave to observe, that, except by embodying these pensioners into the marching regiments that are to remain in this Kingdom, it would not have been possible to make any effective draft for the regiments going to America. The invalids were only intended to remain in the marching regiments until they should have made some progress in their recruiting. In proportion as good recruits were got, the invalids would be drafted into the invalid companies which have been ordered to be raised in this Kingdom. Therefore, the pro-

out-pensioners of Kilmainham that they should not go out of this Kingdom, as those on the Chelsea pension never had such an indulgence.

"In obedience to his Majesty's commands, above mentioned, I have issued orders to General Gisborne that those drafts which have not been already delivered should be left with their corps, but that those who have joined the said six regiments should continue with them.

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mise made to these men determines upon their being returned to the Kilmainham pension, or incorporated into the invalid companies; when they will remain at his Majesty's disposal for such service as he shall judge proper.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*March 13th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I take the liberty of troubling your Lordship with the enclosed copy of my letter to Lord Weymouth, in justification of my conduct, which, on a late very critical occasion, had the misfortune to meet with his Majesty's disapprobation, when I least expected it. If due attention is paid to the dates of the letters that passed between Lord Weymouth and myself, I trust it will appear that there was neither imprudence nor inattention in my conduct; but that I took the best and indeed the only method of carrying out that which I had been advised was the thing the King had most at heart. While the affair of the 4,000 men was still depending in parliament, the least mention of drafting the other corps to complete the numbers would have proved fatal to that measure, which was already involved in many difficulties. The moment I found myself at liberty to second his Majesty's wishes, I took

the only effectual method of doing it. I have so much reliance on his Majesty's justice, and have experienced his goodness to me in so many instances, that I flatter myself, when his Majesty shall be fully possessed of all the particular circumstances of the affair, he will be graciously pleased to entertain a less unfavourable opinion of my late conduct, in one of the most critical and hazardous transactions that ever came under the management of a Lord Lieutenant.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Lord Weymouth.

FROM Lord Weymouth to Earl Harcourt :—

"*March 26th*, 1776.

"My Lord,—A paper was, some short time since, presented to his Majesty by the Commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in Ireland, containing 'Hints that are submitted in consequence of some difference in opinion that has arisen relative to the mode of conducting the Military department of Ireland;' to which paper Sir John Irwine has added some observations which, I am informed, had been communicated to your Excellency. His Majesty has commanded me to lay this paper again before him, together with your Excellency's letter of the 2nd instant. After the fullest consideration the King is pleased to direct that the following rules respecting the method of communicating and carrying on the military business of Ireland be, in future, observed.

"The Commander in chief to have free access to the Lord Lieutenant, either in person or in writing, on all military business; and to receive all orders from the Lord Lieutenant or through his Secretary.

"All opinions and recommendations of the Commander in chief, whether approved or not, to be transmitted to the King.

"In the appointment to new or vacant Commissions the Lord Lieutenant will frequently shew attention to the recommendations of the Commander in chief.

"The Commander in chief to have full communication of all letters on military business which the Lord Lieutenant shall receive from his Majesty's Secretary of State.

"In order that the Deputy Adjutant General and Deputy Quarter Master General may be always resident, those appointments in future will be by the nomination of the King, instead of by Commission, whenever either of those offices shall become vacant. It is his Majesty's pleasure that whenever the regiments to which officers filling those posts belong shall leave the Kingdom, new persons may be appointed.

"It is not necessary that a general officer should constantly be resident at Cork; but he should be ready to go there whenever the service may require it.

"The Commander in chief to be appointed to preside at the barrack board whenever he shall think proper, but to receive no emoluments from such appointment.

"The Commander in chief, though resident in

England, shall not be deemed to exceed the bounds of his Commission by transmitting the memorials of officers to the Lord Lieutenant which he shall receive in this country.

"These regulations his Majesty has thought essential to his service; and directs that, in future, they be fixed and permanent rules. His Majesty cannot doubt, from your Excellency's attachment to his person, and your well-known zeal for his service, that you will readily conform to them, and, on all occasions, endeavour to promote a perfect conciliation with the Commander in chief; and that, on his part, he will pay all proper respect to your Excellency and to the high office you so worthily occupy.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to the Earl of Rochford:—

"*March 27th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Report has told me, shall I be permitted to believe it? that, because my Lord Harcourt has given drafts to the regiments about to embark, for the sake of carrying out a measure the nearest to his Majesty's heart, and which my Lord North had most particularly desired, that the service is now no longer a matter of merit in Lord Harcourt, but possibly something very much otherwise; which, in truth, Lord Weymouth's letters rather confirm than contradict.

"Good God, my Lord, is it possible? Is it to be believed that because Lord Harcourt is disposed to anticipate every thing which is said to be a wish in his Majesty's mind, and that he has placed himself, like St. Lawrence, upon the gridiron for his service, that he receives daily, for his remuneration, every thing which the most malignant whispers can propagate against his conduct? Let us see how the case really stands.

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"Let me request you to read my Lord Wey-

mouth's despatches, though their coarseness may shock you, and see my Lord Harcourt's answer of the 13th instant. You will there find, my dear Lord, that Lord Harcourt was called upon as it were by his allegiance, and even officially, by this gentleman, to complete the regiments ordered for America. You will see that these regiments were ordered to embark on the 10th instant, and that it was not till the 4th of the month, only six days previous to the day ordered for the embarkation, that we ever heard a syllable about completing them with German recruits. We heard enough, it is true, about Scotch-Dutch; but I will aver upon my honour that, till six days previous to the time of embarkation, not a whisper was heard of the German recruits.

"What would have been said, my dear Lord, if his Excellency had remained passive at this time? Having by dint of ability and management got the possibility into his hands, what might not malignancy have whispered upon such conduct? What would it not have done? My Lord, there was a time when it was impossible, when the bare mention of such an idea would have damned the entire measure. It was an object of great contention in the House. One of the points of the first magnitude. If we give them 4,000 men, said gentlemen, you take away half our force, half our defence, we shall not sleep

with security in our beds. No, says administration, only one third of your force is desired. If the 12,000 were effective, 4,000 effective would be asked, but, being nominal, nominal numbers only will be taken from you. So it stood till the declaratory bill had passed the House; when the idea of substituting invalids for our very best soldiers was broached. Had it been whispered before, it had been dangerous. You had lost the six regiments entire—which, let me tell you, incomplete as they were granted, was still a larger force than was asked from England, and recommended as the most meritorious and acceptable service that could possibly be done to the King.

"This, my dear Lord, is the history of these two transactions. Do you forgive my boring you with them?

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"I wish to state these facts. They are stubborn and tough, and will shew mercy to no man. But, the truth is, my Lord Harcourt has been too long in Ireland, or, in the minds of jealous, interested, and malignant men, he has, during his residence in this Kingdom, succeeded too well in every thing he has been commanded to undertake for his Majesty's service. In some, and those not the least material, he has anticipated his commands upon the surmise of his wishes. But every thing will have an end; Lord Harcourt, I fancy,

has had as much of it as he can well carry. No circumstance can shake the attachment he bears to his Majesty's person. But I fancy your Lordship knows he has had enough of the Lieutenancy of Ireland.

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"I hope it will not be many months before I kiss your hands in London. Adieu, my dear Lord.

"I remain, and it is one of my cordialest comforts,

"Your, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*March 29th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I was under great anxiety with regard to the new powers intended to be granted to the Commander in chief. Whatever they may be, I believe very little doubt remains that they will supersede those which I derive from my patent; those that my predecessors have so amply exercised, and which, I trust, have never been abused by me. If such, however, should be his Majesty's pleasure, I would beg leave to make it my request that any alterations which his Majesty shall think expedient to make may be suspended till after my return to England; which I hope his Majesty will be graciously pleased to allow me to do after the new parliament is chosen. This, my dear Lord, seems to be the best expedient, and perhaps the only means of facilitating any new arrangements that may be deemed necessary, and the only way to save my honour and reputation from everlasting disgrace.

"After an absence of near three years and a half from my family and friends; and after the fatigues of two of the most interesting sessions

that have been known in Ireland; and in the sixty-third year of my age, I own myself quite unequal to the constant care and solicitude that attend this responsible station. I am persuaded it is no less for his Majesty's interest, than for the comfort of my life, that I should be permitted to retire from this government, which calls for more activity than I am master of. In a letter to your Lordship, about two months ago, I threw out a wish of this sort.

"In answer to a letter of Duke Harcourt's, who acquainted me of his second son's having the *cordon bleu*, I fairly own that I expressed a wish that it might be in my power to pay him a visit in Normandy towards the autumn; for I had no reason to imagine that his Majesty would find any difficulty in the choice of a person to succeed me. I am sorry the nature of the subject has obliged me to say so much of myself, but I promise your Lordship, for the future, to give you as little trouble of that sort as possible, but at all times, and on all occasions, to assure you that

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth:—

"*April 5th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I received the honour of your Lordship's official letter of the 26th of March, signifying to me his Majesty's pleasure with respect to the rules and method of communicating and carrying on the military business for the future to be observed in Ireland.

"If I had not already made it my most humble request to his Majesty for leave to return to his Royal presence, I should now think myself indispensably obliged to ask that favour; because I am apprehensive that this method of carrying on the military business will, for the future, lower the Chief Governor in the opinion of the public, and lessen that influence which is so essentially necessary for carrying on his Majesty's Government. It would be as unadvisable for his Majesty to trust me with it, as it would be unsafe and disgraceful for me to undertake it, under such humiliating circumstances.

"I cannot reconcile it with my attachment to his Majesty's person and my zeal for his service to remain quite silent on this occasion. I apprehend that the consequences of the new rules may prove dangerous to the King's government, beyond what can be conceived by those who have not considered the particular Constitution of this country, the nature of its government, and the difficulties which a Lord Lieutenant has to encounter. Yet his Majesty may be assured of my readiness to pay all due obedience to his commands, and that his service shall in no ways

suffer by any difficulties arising from me during my short continuance in this country.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*April 6th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My official letters to Lord Weymouth will inform your Lordship that on Thursday last I put an end to the session by proroguing the parliament to the 7th day of May; and, in obedience to his Majesty's commands, it was dissolved yesterday by proclamation.

"If I were to consult my own personal ease alone, it would be my earnest wish to obtain my recall as soon as I had arranged the little matters still depending; leaving the contention for the Chair, and the still greater contention about the originated money bill, to distress my successor. But my attachment to his Majesty is so sincere, and my affection for your Lordship so great, that I cannot entertain a thought of any personal convenience to myself, whilst I am under any apprehension that it may be obtained with any prejudice to his Majesty's government. It is, therefore, my intention, in the course of a very few days, to transmit to Lord Weymouth, for his Majesty's consideration, the mode of proceeding which I conceive it will be advisable should be held with

respect to the money bill which is to be brought into the House of Commons, and which I conceive it must be your Lordship's wish, as essential to the King's government, may be discussed immediately upon the return of the writs. If his Majesty shall be of opinion that the knowledge which I may be supposed to have of the nature and disposition of the people of this country, the experience I have had in this government, and the personal friends I have in this Kingdom, may enable me better than a stranger to deal with the confusion and mischief which this contest, if not closely attended to, may create; I beg leave, through your Lordship, most humbly and cheerfully, to offer them upon this occasion; and to desire you will assure his Majesty that I shall exert them with my wonted and unfeigned endeavours for his service. But I earnestly hope that, by the time this business shall be disposed of, his Majesty will have fixed on a proper person for my successor, that I may be permitted to return to his Royal presence.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*April 11th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have the pleasure to tell you that, by accounts received this day from Cork,

we are informed the fleet with the six regiments sailed from thence, with a leading gale at north, in the morning of the 8th instant. The troops were in high spirits, I am sure it is not our faults if they are not quite complete.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*April 21st*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I begin to be a little solicitous to know who is likely to succeed me; not so much from a motive of mere curiosity as from a concern for the welfare of the King's government.

* * * * * *

"It does not seem expedient now that I should make use of the powers his Majesty has been so graciously pleased to place in my hands for enabling me to treat with the Duke of Leinster; who is of less consequence at present than he was at the outset of the last sessions. As I was able to get through the session notwithstanding his opposition, it may be more for the advantage of his Majesty's affairs to leave any further arrangements to my successor. This will apply both to the Duke of Leinster, and to Mr. Ponsonby. With the latter I declined having any concern, not only

because I found that I could carry on the King's service without him, but because I apprehended his terms would be very high, from the number of his followers and dependents, who in general are very necessitous. I was, besides, a little apprehensive that Mr. Ponsonby's taking a part with government might be the means of uniting and cementing his parliamentary interest with his son in law, Lord Shannon; which might, hereafter, make them both very formidable to government.

"I hope his Majesty knows me too well to suppose I can have the least anxiety about what is to become of me when I leave this government. If his Majesty shall be graciously pleased to think I have done the duties of my station, I have no reason to doubt of his goodness to me, or to suppose that my services will go unrewarded. At all events I do not mean to be importunate, or to give his Majesty one moment's uneasiness on my account; for though I should be happy to serve him in some honourable station near his person, yet, if I should never have that good fortune, my attachment to his Majesty will ever be uniformly and invariably the same.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"SECRET AND CONFIDENTIAL.

"*May 4th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have delayed to the very last moment sending this despatch to your Lordship, having been in hopes from day to day of receiving the list of gentlemen, whom, I understood from Sir John Blaquiere and Mr. Lees, your Lordship wished should be recommended for creations and steps in the Irish peerage. The parliament being now dissolved, and the writs for calling the new parliament issued since Wednesday last, it is absolutely necessary that I submit to his Majesty, through their respective official channels, all those arrangements of which, as your Lordship was so good to inform me in your letter of the 22nd January, his Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve.

* * * * * *

"I have reason to believe that not few of the bounties and emoluments intended are meant to be mortgaged to enable some gentlemen to purchase their seats, which, to my utter astonishment, continue, at this day, to be sold for not less than £2,000. It is, however, with some satisfaction that I am able to inform your Lordship, that I

find I shall be able, in all moral probability, to secure to his Majesty's government a majority in the next parliament exceeding by two or three voices, at least, the majority stated in the paper made up by Mr. Lees; with no inconsiderable saving of expense, besides, to his Majesty. And when I am, at the same time, to inform you that since the 15th December last there have been pensions fallen in to the amount of upwards of £2,000, I shall have offered a much more agreeable prospect to your Lordship, with regard to this particular state of government, than I ever thought would have been in my power.

"The saving made amounts to £1,300, but, in order to bring this to bear, I have been forced to dispose of most of the little employments which have fallen in, and which were at my disposal. These I had intended, principally, for some few gentlemen of my household. I shall, therefore, be laid under a necessity of adding some names to the pension list which I had before submitted. But, as the amount of these will, with the addition of some small sums for charitable purposes, not exceed £352, I hope you will permit me to request your Lordship to give them your best offices with his Majesty.

"It will save much trouble to your Lordship if you will allow me to refer you to the letter before recited of the 15th December last, for the

general grounds upon which these several recommendations were made.

* * * * * *

"I have only to add my most earnest and pressing desire that your Lordship may obtain the carrying out of my recommendations without any delay, as the fate of the strength of the King's government in the ensuing parliament most materially depends upon it.

* * * * * *

"In a letter, private as it is, to the first Lord of the Treasury, upon a subject of this nature, which, without revenue, could not exist, it is impossible to avoid just touching, generally, upon that head. A former letter of mine acquainted you that the King's revenue in this country had risen so considerably that, in the year ending the 25th March last, compared with the year which preceded it, there was an exceeding of no less than £103,530. Curiosity led me to examine into the state of the revenue brought down to the 30th of April from that day, and it is, in truth, with singular pleasure that I am to acquaint your Lordship that in this short period of five weeks, compared with the corresponding period of last year, there is an exceeding even beyond the last year's, and upon which I spoke with so much exultation, of no less than £8,420, and compared with the same period ending the 30th April, 1774,

it gives an exceeding of £15,470, which, I think, cannot fail of giving your Lordship much satisfaction. "I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"SEPARATE AND SECRET.

"*May 4th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—My official letters of this date to Lord Weymouth recommend the several steps and creations of honour, which, in your favour to me of the 25th March, by Mr. Lees, you informed me his Majesty had been graciously pleased to approve of. I shall, therefore, only trouble you with a list of the names.

Viscount Ligonier	For the Rank of Earl.
Viscount Crosbie	
Barons Southwell	For the Rank of Viscount.
Mountflorence	
Clermont	
Dawson	
Sir Charles Bingham, Bart.	For the Rank of Baron.
Sir Archibald Acheson, Bart.	
Sir Thomas Maude, Bart.	
Sir William Mayne, Bart.	
Mr. Sentleger	
Mr. Agar	
Mr. Massey	
Mr. Howard	

Sir Michael Cromie . . . } For the Rank
Ralph Fetherston, Esq^r. . . } of Baronet.

"What I have to add to these will, I hope, not give your Lordship much trouble, nor, I hope, be disapproved of by his Majesty. Some little changes in a period of several months, may naturally have been expected to arise; and the postponing the creation of the Marquises, with which I had ventured so securely to flatter myself, and upon which I had a dependence of three certain seats in parliament, besides some collateral assistance for other seats, make it indeed necessary for me to recommend, with earnestness, the following few additional favours.

"I beg leave to propose a peerage for M^r. Burke. He is of an ancient and respectable family; has a very large estate. The borough of Naas belongs to him, with which he means to assist government. He has been fifty years in parliament; a constant supporter of the King's government, and, in my time, so very zealously and assiduously that he has frequently been brought down to vote at 12 o'clock at night without ever making any plea whatever as an excuse when he was sent for. His eldest son is a man of understanding and ability; a very good speaker in parliament, and constantly disposed to step forward when called upon, which, upon critical occasions, has been of great assist-

ance. Grounded upon the merit of these services and this attachment to his Majesty's government, and upon an expectation of this assistance in the new parliament, I have, in a separate official letter to Lord Weymouth, recommended him to his Majesty for the rank of a Baron, by the title of Baron Naas of the County of Kildare.

"I must also beg leave to add, for steps in the peerage, the two following noblemen, Viscount Clanwilliam, and Baron Knapton. The former is a nobleman of great property, and has supported, with a constant attendance in parliament, my administration. Lord Knapton was formerly in the army. He is a man of a very respectable character, and has particularly distinguished himself at the head of those gentlemen who have been so active in the suppression of the disturbances occasioned by the White Boys.

"A separate official letter also recommends two additional Baronets.

"M^r. Lawless, purchaser, at the price of £2,000, of a seat in parliament; pledged by himself and friends to support the King's government for no other consideration than this dignity. He is of a Roman Catholic family, and, unquestionably, one of those of the greatest property in this Kingdom. He lately conformed, and with him a great number of his adherents.

"M^r. Skeffington Smith is a gentleman of pro-

perty and of character, allied and connected with some of the most respectable families of this Kingdom. My Lord Clanwilliam and Lord Bangor have warmly interested themselves in his favour. My official letter recommends these two gentlemen for the rank of Baronets.

"I do not know how it has happened, but I fear that, by some inattention of my own, I have never once spoken to your Lordship about the council board; or, if I have, it has totally escaped my memory, for I can find no vestige or record of it amongst any of my papers. But you are, I am sure, too well acquainted with the state of things in this country to suppose it can have been possible for me to conduct the King's business through this arduous session, without holding out some expectation to some gentlemen of seats at the board. In truth, it has gone something further, amounting nearly to a promise with some whose assistance I found it absolutely necessary to secure, before they had given their votes upon the great American question, which I introduced into the House upon the first day of the session. These gentlemen are Sir Robert Deane, Sir Capel Molineux, Mr. Richard Jackson, and the Earl of Mornington.

"My letter also recommends the Archbishop of Tuam in right of his station, which, by usage, has been given to all his predecessors, and the

Lord Viscount Valentia, who has been so fortunately recommended to your Lordship.

"Added to these, I have earnestly to recommend to your Lordship's good offices for this mark of his Majesty's favour, two gentlemen whom it would give me the greatest pleasure to oblige, and to whom, in honour and justice, I am very much beholden: Mr. Cooper for the most disinterested and honourable support; and Mr. Vessey for services no less honourable and accommodating. Feeling myself bound, as I do, to those gentlemen, your Lordship will not be surprised if I have so much solicitude about them. Mr. Cooper is Member for the County of Sligo, which he will probably represent for the rest of his life, and he is one of the most popular as well as most respectable, and, from property, independent, men in the Kingdom. Without holding any office, or ever asking a favour for himself or a friend, he has been a constant attender in parliament, and never gave a vote upon any important point against my administration; and, what may surprise your Lordship more, preserves his popularity still.

"Mr. Vessey has been long in parliament. He is a gentleman very much esteemed, very nearly related to the Speaker, and has given a support to my administration which well entitled him to the expectation I have taken upon me to hold out to him, as far as my earnest recom-

mendation of him to his Majesty could warrant.

"Suffer me in one breath to superadd to all the trouble I have been under the necessity of giving your Lordship, as my most earnest request, that these additional favours, although they were not stated at an earlier moment, may, upon the grounds on which they are proposed, have your warmest and best offices with his Majesty, to whose gracious consideration I beg leave most humbly to submit them.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE.

"*May 4th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It was not my design to have troubled you upon this occasion with any thing respecting Mr. Lees. A man whose services to government, whose attachment to me, and whose unwearied labours in the very arduous and confidential station he has held, must have marked him to your Lordship as a person who had the justest and highest claims upon me for every service it might be in my power to render him.

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"It is essential for me to state a circumstance,

for your Lordship's information, which is of much consequence to him, as his bread, in a manner, may in some degree depend upon it. Mr. Lees' situation has been such, his conduct so upright, and his integrity has been so constantly exercised at the expense of his interest, that I fear he may have much to apprehend from the malignancy of some men when I am no longer on the spot to protect him. I shall confess to your Lordship that unless I am enabled, through your good offices with his Majesty, to place him in some degree out of their resentment, and to obtain for him at least something which, in case of accident, he can call his own, I shall be very uneasy.

"The circumstances of his affairs are, I believe, not unknown to your Lordship. Mr. Robinson has a memorandum of them in case you would choose to look to them. He holds an office during pleasure which Lord Townshend gave him, very inadequate to what his Lordship thought he deserved, and which he will be proud to declare he too well earned. Lord Townshend wished to have done more for him. He had it not in his power. My desire would be that his Majesty would be pleased to appoint him searcher of the Port of Wexford for life. There is no salary to the office. The emoluments not more than five pounds a year. I must beg your kind offices with his Majesty to grant him a salary to it of £500,

not to be annexed in perpetuity to the office, but for his life only.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*May 8th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I know very little of what is doing on the other side of the water, and, therefore, if I am improper you must excuse me. If the question is whether this country is to be governed by a resident or a non-resident Lord Lieutenant, I hope those who have his Majesty's interest at heart will never advise the Crown to dispense with the residence of the Lord Lieutenant, and place the government of this Kingdom in the hands of Lords Justices.

"Such a measure, my dear Lord, would be most fatal to the King's affairs, and be the occasion of great confusion. I shudder at the very idea. It is but an unthankful office to give an opinion unasked; and yet I cannot reconcile it with my duty to his Majesty to conceal my thoughts on this subject. To be silent would be little less than treachery in me, who may be supposed to know the state of this Kingdom, and what may be most prejudicial or beneficial to the Crown. I will venture to foretell that this country can never more be governed by Lords Justices. There

is not one of the leading interests here that would not take offence at being left out of government. I have reason to suspect there are some that may think they have a right to be in the Commission. What jealousies, what cabals, what factions, would ensue. But I have shot my bolt, and have said enough to convince your Lordship, if not of the prudence, at least of the zeal of

"My dear Lord, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*May 9th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The receipt of the letter from my Lord Weymouth, of which I enclose you a copy, obliges me to give your Lordship this trouble.

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"Suffer me to trouble you also with a copy of my letter to Lord Weymouth for your entire information upon the present state of this affair; and suffer me earnestly to request, by your kind interposition in it, that his Majesty may be fully apprized of all that has passed in a transaction which I conceive to be accomplished, and which, I had flattered myself, through your fair and friendly representations, had met with his Majesty's approbation. In your good offices at this moment, lest there should be any misrepresenta-

tions, I request there may be no delay. If you choose an augmentation of the cavalry it can readily be done, but I am satisfied your Lordship will be of opinion that, consistently with the message and the declaratory bill respecting the 4,000 men, it cannot be made at the expense of this Kingdom.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth :—

"SECRET.

"*May 9th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I must beg your leave to acknowledge, in a private letter, the honour of your official despatch to me of the 2nd of this month; desiring me to acquaint you, for his Majesty's information, with the steps that had been taken for the carrying into execution the augmentation of the four regiments of horse and seven regiments of dragoons upon this establishment.

"It is very painful for me to be forced to call to your Lordship's recollection the transactions of that particular time; and the point which, in duty to his Majesty, as well as to myself, I thought myself bound to take. The 4,000 men were granted for the American service upon one express stipulation, that this country should be eased of the

expense; and, until that was recognized in some degree by a law, I found the House of Commons not disposed to part with them. When your Lordship's several letters of the 1st of January came, directing the embarkation of the eight regiments, the augmentation now mentioned, and the embodying the invalids, I was reduced to the dilemma which my private letter to your Lordship, of the 8th of January, expressed.

* * * * * *

"The expense to be induced by the augmentation of the cavalry, and the incorporating the invalids (contrary to what I was authorised to declare to parliament), made a material part of my representations against the general measure. So little did I conceive that any augmentation to the cavalry was definitely intended, having never heard a syllable upon the subject since that time, that I shall confess to your Lordship I have never since entertained a thought upon the matter.

"Your Lordship will see if I am justified; and how very differently this matter stands from that which respects the incorporating the invalids of Kilmainham. I have my Lord North's letter before me of the 21st December, saying in these express terms, that his Majesty approved entirely of the plan I had proposed for incorporating the invalids; but, says his Lordship, 'I could wish

that, as the additional expense will not be great to Ireland, we may not be put to the difficulty of applying for it to the British House of Commons.' He further adds, that the precedent of taking any of the pensioners belonging to Kilmainham hospital into British pay would give so much alarm and disgust, that he hoped it would not be pressed. My answers to his Lordship conveyed, as they always will whilst I have the honour of being employed in his Majesty's service, my design of doing every thing in my power which he could desire.

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"All that followed upon the alteration of the money bill has already given your Lordship too much trouble. I mention it only to say that, until the declaratory bill had passed, I durst not, on account of the expense, even glance at the idea. But, no sooner was this carried, than I gave Sir John Blaquiere directions to take the earliest moment to state this measure to the House. He did it within less than two or three days afterwards, and apprized them of the expense it would induce. He had, in some degree, prepared them for this at the beginning of the session; having, even at that early time, conceived it to be possible that his Majesty might have occasion to employ these Pensioners. The proposition passed without opposition. In all this time not a word

was said, nor indeed thought by me, of an augmentation in the cavalry. I looked upon the several letters of the 1st of January as lost or sunk in the general change of measures respecting the 4,000 men; which, upon my humble representations to his Majesty, he had been pleased to permit. I hope that, upon combining, as is necessary, the whole of these circumstances together, I shall not be so unfortunate as to have my conduct disapproved of by his Majesty.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Weymouth:—

"*May 27th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have received the honour of your Lordship's secret and confidential letter of the 20th instant, signifying to me that it is his Majesty's pleasure that I do give immediate orders for augmenting, by recruits, the four regiments of horse and seven regiments of dragoons now in this Kingdom, with one corporal and ten private dismounted men to each troop of horse and dragoons, according to your Lordship's letter of the 1st of January last.

"Having, in my secret letter to your Lordship of the 9th instant, stated, very particularly, the reasons that had restrained me from carrying that

measure into execution, it only remains for me to desire your Lordship to inform his Majesty that his Majesty's commands shall now be forthwith obeyed.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*May 29th*, 1776.

"*Received June 25th.*

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Excellency will have learnt from Mr. Allan that his Majesty has consented to all your arrangements, except to the three Marquisates, against which he seems to have greater objections than ever; and indeed it would involve him in considerable difficulties, and cause no small dissatisfaction, if he were to give way to your Excellency's wishes in that respect.

"The official letters for the Irish pensions, both parliamentary, and those your Excellency asks for your private friends and your household, are making out, and will be brought to your Excellency by the same conveyance with this letter. I will not conceal from you that the King was struck at the largeness of the sum total; but, knowing the difficulties your Excellency must encounter at the election of a new parliament, and being entirely sensible of the engagements which you must contract, he gave his consent to all the list, without exception. After mentioning the greatness of the sum, it will seem in-

consistent that I shall add to it, but I hope your Excellency will have no objection to a small pension that I have procured from his Majesty for a very old woman, Mrs. Lucia Southwell. She is of a noble Irish family, and is, I believe, reduced almost to nothing. His Majesty has, out of charity, been pleased to order her a pension on the Irish establishment of £150 a year. Permit me here to detain your Excellency a moment for a job for a friend of mine. Captain Hamilton writes word to his father that it would not be difficult for him to obtain a small revenue office, with an additional salary of about £200 a year, if I would apply to your Excellency for it. On the one hand I should be sorry if the young man were to lose any advantage for want of an application from me; and, on the other, I am resolved strictly to abide by the resolution I took when your Excellency went to Ireland, and which I hope I have hitherto observed, not to distress you by any requests for my friends. Your Excellency will judge whether Mr. Hamilton can be gratified without any inconvenience. If he can, I shall certainly esteem any favour done to him as a personal obligation to myself.

"We have not had the least difficulty or doubt about the Peerages sent from Ireland; but we have been a good deal embarrassed by the solicitations of English and Scotch gentlemen on this

side of the water, who solicit for seats in the House of Lords in Ireland, which the greatest part of them will never see. Another distress arises from the desire of rank. Lord Clermont understands that he was promised to be made an Earl as soon as Lord Crosbie, and has obtained the King's consent to grant him that rank at this promotion. By this complaisance a good rule is broken, and I am put under great difficulties about Lord Orwell and Lord Baltinglass. With respect to the latter I know your Excellency's objections, and I have no other concern about him or his family than what arises from the relation which Mr. Stratford bears to me by his marriage, and from the expense and trouble he was put to in a contest at the general election, upon the interest of government. On these accounts I should not chuse to see the rule broken for Lord Clermont, and not for him. But what would please me best would be that it should be broken for neither.

"I will state my difficulties to the King at his levee to-day. If his Majesty continues in his resolution of advancing Lord Clermont to an Earldom, the enclosed list will state the intended honours correctly, otherwise the three last of the four Earls will be only Viscounts. I will endeavour likewise to put off the three last Baronies to a future time. The others have been abso-

lutely promised and cannot be deferred. We think it will be more convenient to your Excellency that the creations should *now* go over directly from hence, without waiting for any letters of recommendation from your side of the water.

"I am very sorry to see your Excellency distressed again by military arrangements, especially as I thought the augmentation of the cavalry had taken place some time ago. I believe that the passage in a former letter of mine, to which your Excellency alludes, related to some very different purpose, as it was of a date long prior to the resolution of augmenting the cavalry. The reason of adopting this measure was that we conceived the force left in Ireland to be very weak, and we did not understand the promise to the Irish parliament to mean more than that we would, at the expense of England, maintain the 4,000 men while they were out of the Kingdom of Ireland. I should conceive that this small augmentation, which, from the nature of it, will be easily made, will be rather deemed a benefit than a burthen to the nation.

"I am much obliged to your Excellency for your letter concerning the residence of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and have the satisfaction of informing you that his Majesty's sentiments agree so entirely with yours on that head, that no

person will be appointed but upon condition of constant residence. Your successor is not yet appointed, but he will be in two or three days at the furthest. It is impossible for me to touch upon this subject without returning your Excellency my best thanks for all your personal attentions to me, as well as for the real and essential assistance you have given to his Majesty's government during your administration. If (which I do not in the least apprehend) there should be any difficulty in acknowledging your Excellency's services in a proper manner, your Excellency will be so good as to consider me to be as much bound to support your honour and credit as my own.

"Sir John Blaquiere is not mentioned in any of your Excellency's last letters, but he will not be forgotten by me, and you will not quit Ireland without the satisfaction of knowing that attention has been paid to his very able, meritorious, and successful labours.

"I am desired to speak a word to your Excellency in behalf of M^r. Robert Barry, as of a case of compassion. He has not been able to persuade Lord Cork to bring him into the next parliament, and he says that he cannot purchase a seat for a less sum than £3,000. He fears that he is to lose his place if he fails of being able to obtain a seat in parliament, which, he says, it is not in

his power to afford. Your Excellency can best judge whether you can attend to his request consistently with your general arrangements. If you can, your own good nature will, I am sure, incline you either to assist him in obtaining a seat on easier terms, or, if you are convinced of the sincerity of his endeavours, you will spare him for some time, and afford him an opportunity of trying to make his way into the House of Commons. The gentleman's friends here, his own melancholy statement of his case, and the character he bears of having been hitherto a uniform supporter of government, have induced me to write these few lines in his favour to your Excellency, who will be best able to determine how far his request can be granted without any very material prejudice to his Majesty's service.

"The King did not hesitate a moment about M^r. Lees, with whose long and useful services he is well acquainted. Your Excellency may perhaps have more difficulty to prevent your friends in Ireland from treating this grant as a deviation from the King's message, and attacking you with solicitations for permanent provisions for themselves.

"I am, &c."

LIST REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE LETTER.

"*Earls.*

Lord Lisburne—Earl of Lisburne in the county of Antrim.

Lord Orwell—Earl of Shipbrook.

Lord Baltinglass—Earl of Aldborough, Viscount Amiens.

Lord Clermont—Earl of Clermont.

"*N.B.* If the three last should not be Earls, I apprehend they would chuse the titles of Viscounts Orwell, Baltinglass, and Clermont.

"*Barons.*

William Edwards, Esq^r. — Heir to the ancient family of Rich, who were Earls of Warwick and Holland; a Gentleman of a very good family, considerable fortune, and without children. His title, Baron Kensington.

William Henry Lyttelton, Esq^r.—Uncle to Lord Lyttelton, for some time Governor of South Carolina and Jamaica, and Envoy extraordinary at the Court of Portugal. Of an ancient family and good fortune. Connected with Ireland by marriage, and, I believe, by the expectation of a considerable addition to his fortune. His title, Baron Westede of Balamare, in the county of Longford.

Sir George Macartney—Lord Macartney, Baron of Lissanour in the county of Antrim.

Sir Richard Philipps—Baron Milford. His family and fortune are well known.

Robert Henry Ongley, Esq^{r}.—Lord Ongley, Baron of Old Warden. M^{r}. Ongley is of a considerable fortune and family, and of a very fair character. Has given to government during the late troublesome times, the most constant, cordial, and disinterested support.

Vice-Admiral Molyneux Shuldham—A gentleman of Ireland who has passed his life in the naval service, and has been lately, without any complaint against him, superseded in his command by Lord Howe. His Majesty, to demonstrate that this necessary arrangement did not proceed from any fault of the Vice-Admiral, has directed that he should be created a peer of Ireland, by the title of Lord Shuldham.

Sir Alexander Macdonald, Sir Thomas Wynne, Clotworthy Upton, Esq^{r}.—These three gentlemen are every way properly qualified for the rank of peers, by their family, fortune, and weight, in Great Britain or Ireland. The latter was sent over by Lord Townshend.

"*N.B.* If these three are added to this creation, their titles will be, Lord Macdonald of Slate, county of Antrim, Lord Newborough, and Lord Templetown of Templetown, county of Antrim.

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*June 1st*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Having reason to believe that your Lordship may be under some difficulty with regard to Lord Clermont's and Lord Baltinglass' promotions in the Peerage, I would submit it to your Lordship's consideration whether it might not be advisable to create them Viscounts only, when the new creations and other promotions take place. Afterwards, if his Majesty should be disposed to confer any further honours on them, they might be raised, at the distance of five or six months, to the rank of Earls. This would be attended with more advantages than one. It would not only prevent the applications of other Barons to be made Earls in the first instance; but it might be the means of securing the two M^{r}. Stratfort's votes for M^{r}. Pery; which, otherwise, he stands little chance of having; they being the most slippery gentlemen I ever had to deal with.

"If I am a little premature in offering your Lordship my sincerest acknowledgments for your very effectual and friendly offices in obtaining his Majesty's consent to most of the favours which

I most humbly requested, your Lordship must impute it to my earnest desire to express how very sensible I am of your goodness.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*June 19th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—It is with infinite pleasure I inform your Lordship that we have this instant disposed of your money bill in the House of Commons; which, by dint of management, we procured to be read before it was rejected; precisely according to the wishes of his Majesty's servants in England, as they were signified to me in my Lord Weymouth's secret letter of the 1st of last month. The House was more temperate than might possibly have been expected, after the convulsions of yesterday, upon the contest for the Chair. I cannot conceive any thing to have been more mortifying to some gentlemen, or more honourable or advantageous to the King's government, than the decisive victory that was obtained upon that question, against the three great leading and powerful interests of the Kingdom united, the Shannons, Ponsonbys, and Elys. Nor can I reconcile it to the opinion I had entertained of the wisdom of some of these gentlemen, that they should suffer it to appear to the world that an

administration conducted with some discretion may do without any of them.

"I shall go to-morrow to the House of Peers to give the Royal assent to the bill for extending the time to qualify; as I judged it expedient to pass some bill, in order to put it out of all doubt that this was a session of parliament. I shall then prorogue it in the usual form.

"And now, my dear Lord, now that I cannot conceive a wish or a desire of his Majesty's, or your Lordship's, or of your Administration, with respect to the affairs of this Kingdom, that remains unaccomplished; suffer me, in the effusions of honest joy, to offer you in a single breath my warm and sincerest congratulations upon the extraordinary success of fortunate events which, I shall confess, have gone so far beyond my most sanguine expectations.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*June 21st*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The business of our short though very interesting session of parliament being over, and, I trust, to his Majesty's satisfaction, I must now beg leave to renew my request that his Majesty would be pleased to permit me to return to his Royal presence; for I protest I no

longer find myself able to sustain the weight of the high station wherein his Majesty has been graciously pleased to place me.

"I own, my dear Lord, I most earnestly wished to have been in England about this time. Had it suited his Majesty's convenience I desired, after paying my humble duty to the King, and having seen my family, to have had the benefit of the Spa season; to recruit a constitution, which, though not impaired, is far from being invigorated by a residence of more than three years and a half in this country.

"When it was thought that it might be for his Majesty's service for me to continue here till the new parliament was returned, and the important business of the short session accomplished, I thought it my duty to waive all considerations of personal and domestic convenience, and give my whole attention to the great objects of his Majesty's government. And as I have had the good fortune to see every thing succeed even beyond my expectation (for I own I was doubtful of the event), I now rely on his Majesty's great goodness that my continuance in this country may not be protracted beyond Michaelmas next. If I might hope for your Lordship's good offices to obtain my request, it will be considered as an additional favour conferred on,

"My dear Lord, &c."

Letters from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*June 21st*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I think it necessary to accompany with these few lines a letter which your Excellency will perceive, from its date, to have been written some time ago. All your requests have been laid before the King, and you will see that, according to your desire, Lord Clermont will obtain only one step in the peerage at this creation; but this point has not been carried without much difficulty and complaint. I am very sorry that Lord Baltinglass has given your Excellency so much reason to be dissatisfied with his conduct. He does not, as you will perceive, obtain his Earldom; but as the letter has been sent to the Secretary of State's office for inserting him in the list of Viscounts, it is, I fear, too late to recall that favour. I have, however, sent to Mr. Stratford, and will represent to him how much his father's conduct disqualifies him from pretending to future distinctions. In addition to the pension I mentioned in my letters, you will receive a King's letter for continuing a pension, lately vacant by the death of a Mr. Fitzgerald,

to his brother who is in great distress, and, as far as I can learn, a very proper object of his Majesty's bounty. He is very earnestly recommended by Mr. Middleton of Chick Castle, and is so old that it is likely he will not long continue a burthen to the Irish Establishment.

"I have mentioned Sir John Blaquiere's pension to the King, but he thinks that as Sir John has an office which Sir George Macartney had not, his pension should not be so great as Sir George's. The next time that I see the King I will receive his pleasure as to the amount of the pension. The mode of it was rather unexpected both to his Majesty and to your humble servant. There are objections to it, but I will reconsider it, and Sir John may be assured that I will not raise any unreasonable difficulty.

"I am, &c."

From Lord North to Earl Harcourt:—

"*June 29th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I wish you joy a thousand times of the prosperous opening of your parliament. It is a glorious conclusion of your successful labours. These are not only my sentiments. His Majesty expressed himself as much pleased and satisfied as your Excellency or your humble servant when I laid your letters before him. With

respect to the request contained in your last, although he is sensible how difficult it will be to replace you, he has authorised me to acquaint you that he will nominate your successor time enough to enable your Excellency to quit Ireland, according to your desire, before Michaelmas next.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*July 18th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,— .... I must inform your Lordship that I have recommended to the Lords of the Treasury, and, for the furtherance of which with his Majesty, I must beg leave to request your good offices, the three following small pensions: one of £100 to Mrs. Marshall; one of £100 to Mrs. Evelyn; and one of £250 to Mrs. Mitchell.

"Mrs. Marshall is the wife of the Collector of Galway. This gentleman has served the Crown, in that station, upwards of thirty years. The office is worth £250 a year, which he proposes to resign for a pension of £100 to his wife; and to which, if his Majesty shall be pleased to consent, I mean to appoint in his room Mr. Wynne, son of the Right Honourable Owen Wynne, member for the County of Sligo. There is no man to whom government is more obliged than this gentleman. He has, at this moment, a double return for two seats; and I am thoroughly satisfied if a compliment of this little office were made to him, he would, and he has it much in his power to, make ample compensation to government for it.

"Mrs. Evelyn is the widow of the late Dean of Emly who died the other day, and for whom I had a very particular regard. The Dean was one of the most respectable men of his vocation. He expended his income in the education of his children, and, as I am informed, in purchasing for his son now serving under General Clinton in America. Insomuch that his widow and the rest of his family are left totally destitute, and I have, therefore, upon this occasion, taken the liberty to submit her name to his Majesty as an object highly deserving of the Royal bounty, and recommend her for a pension of £100 a year. ....

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—If I express a great deal of uneasiness that nothing is yet determined in favour of Sir John Blaquiere's situation, your Lordship will not be surprised when you consider how much the success of my administration has been owing to the persevering attention and abilities of my Secretary.

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"The flourishing state of the public credit; the great improvement of the revenue; and the discharge of many arrears that were become dis-

graceful to government, are, in a great measure, owing to Sir John Blaquiere. After saying so much in behalf of my friend, I shall endeavour to make your Lordship some amends, by assuring you that no consideration shall ever induce me to give you half so much trouble on account of,

"My dear Lord, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August 7th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your Lordship's kind attention to every request of mine induces me to lay before you an application which I have been earnestly solicited to make. Our Solicitor-General, whom I wish, upon this occasion, to distinguish by the title of my friend, Mr. Scott, I have found to be uniformly and invariably a man of integrity, fidelity, and zeal; and I can, with confidence, assert that the King has not one more attached nor any abler servant in Ireland.

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"Though Lord Townshend brought him into parliament, he has determined not to remain, in that respect, a burthen to administration, and has purchased a seat for life. He wishes exceedingly to have the reversion of Clerk of the Pleas in the Court of Exchequer in Ireland, for his life. The

office is at present granted to two Attorneys, Francis and Polidore Plumbtree, joint patentees, who purchased it, in reversion, for their lives, and have been in possession of it since the year 1759.

"This office, ever since the year 1668, which is as early as it is traced in the Rolls, has been uniformly granted in reversion, and, generally, for two lives in reversion; in most instances to persons below the title of Esquire. It is not, nor ever was, upon the establishment, and creates no expense, as its emoluments, which are considerable, amounting from £1,000 to £1,500 a year, arise entirely from fees upon the law business of the Courts. The expense of the office I cannot ascertain. There are two deputies and some clerks. The whole, I am assured, cannot be less than £500 a year. I should not ask it for his life, but that a reversion, during pleasure, upon the deaths of two, would really be worth to him nothing.

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"Having stated to your Lordship the nature of my request on behalf of this gentleman, suffer me, my dear Lord, to add a word as to the reasonableness of his pretensions. He has been, for eight years, without the exception of a single moment, a most strenuous, indefatigable supporter of his Majesty's government, and now enters upon a like campaign entirely at his own expense.

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"We absolutely owe the preservation of the King's inheritance in the Phœnix Park to his indefatigable industry, ability, and zeal; and upon every other occasion I have found his conduct uniformly directed to his Majesty's service, and to the support of his government. I would, therefore, most earnestly entreat that this gentleman's conduct may be particularly distinguished by such a well timed mark of his Majesty's gracious favour. . . .

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*August 27th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Captain Hamilton called on me last night. He was just returned from England, and I own I was much disappointed in not hearing from your Lordship, for I have not had that honour since the 29th of June last, when you assured me that his Majesty had authorised you to acquaint me that he would nominate my successor time enough to enable me to quit Ireland, according to my desire, before Michaelmas next. Relying on these assurances, I have already sent to England my plate, my wine, my clothes, and the greatest part of my baggage, which may render my situation very untoward and distressing if I am detained here beyond the time above mentioned; but I still trust that will not be the case; for, though I do not yet hear of any one named to succeed me, I hope it will not be expected I should remain here. The extension of the powers vested in the Commander in chief have lowered the credit of the Lord Lieutenant in proportion as they have increased the influence and importance of that gentleman; the inconveniences of which will, one day or other, be so sensibly felt, that I am unwilling to be responsible for them. It is far from my intention to start doubts and difficulties; but I wish most earnestly to get rid of a situation in which I can no longer continue with any degree of credit to myself, nor with the least prospect of being any further useful to my King and country. Under such circumstances your Lordship will allow me to have recourse to your friendly interposition, by which I flatter myself with the hope of obtaining his Majesty's leave to return to his Royal presence conformably to his gracious assurances signified by your Lordship to

"My dear Lord, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"PRIVATE.

"*September 2nd*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I am really quite ashamed that I have not yet sent to your Excellency his Majesty's permission to return to England, and that I am now obliged to desire you to remain there a little while, and I hope but a very little while, longer. The two persons who were first talked of as your successors are now out of the question; and I am so hampered by my expressions to a third that I am afraid he must be the next Lord Lieutenant. I say afraid, because, though I have, personally, the highest esteem and regard for him, I have strong political objections against his nomination. I need not explain myself more fully to your Excellency. Nothing has ever given me more uneasiness than this Irish business. How it will end I cannot yet be certain; but I still apprehend that your Excellency's retreat will bring on mine.

"I have laid your Excellency's request in behalf of the Solicitor-General before the King, but can-

not boast of my success. His Majesty has, very justly, conceived such a dislike to granting reversions and terms of years and for lives to the leading members of parliament in Ireland, that he will not, I believe, be brought to consent to this application. At the same time he has a just sense of Mr. Scott's abilities and services, and will, I am sure, be very happy in every opportunity of promoting him.

"Your letter concerning Allan has found me here, and brought me the first intelligence of his having procured a seat in the new parliament of Ireland. I hope that the precedent of Mr. Waller will be serviceable to him; but I must apprize your Excellency that the King begins to grow sore upon the great number of applications for pensions on the Irish Establishment.

"I shall return to town about the 15th or 16th of this month, and will immediately signify to you his Majesty's final resolution about your successor. Your Excellency will be, I hope, released about the end of October.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*September 9th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I shall take up no more of your time than to acknowledge the favour of your letter of the 2nd instant, and to thank you for the confidence with which you have been pleased to honour me. I shall not make an improper use of it, but shall wait with impatience for the latter end of October, when I hope in God I shall receive his Majesty's permission to return to England. My continuance here has become irksome and dishonourable from a sense of being of no further use to the Crown; and, therefore, I wish to be released from it. But for his Majesty's sake, and for the sake of the public, I very sincerely wish that my retreat may in no degree affect your Lordship. It ought, indeed, to affect no one but myself. If the motives on which I have acted are not thoroughly understood, my conduct will be blamed, and perhaps by his Majesty. It will be my misfortune and not my fault if that should be the case.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*September 11th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—As Sir John Blaquiere will have an opportunity of paying his respects to your Lordship in person, I shall beg leave to refer you to him for any information you may require with respect to the affairs of this country. I shall not presume to trouble your Lordship with any more requests on his behalf; for, if what I have already so frequently urged is not sufficient to remove any unfavourable impressions that have been made to the prejudice of a man that has done the Crown the most signal and eminent service, nothing that I can offer will be of any avail. Whatever may be his Majesty's further pleasure with regard to Sir John's past services, I should hope, at least, that his reception at St. James's will not carry any mark of his Majesty's disapprobation; which, to a man conscious of having discharged his duty with the greatest attention and integrity, would be the greatest of all mortifications.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*September 11th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Before I leave this Kingdom, I feel it a duty incumbent on me to request

the favour of your Lordship to lay before his Majesty the names of some of the respectable Magistrates of this city. They have been particularly active in defeating and crushing, at the peril of their lives and to the manifest prejudice of their properties, the many popular commotions which at different times have been endeavoured to be excited by turbulent people in this metropolis, in favour of the cause of the American rebels.

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"I beg to submit to his Majesty the name of Mrs. Catherine Emerson, the wife of the present Lord Mayor, for a pension of £100. I think the Lord Mayor has an additional claim, as he will inevitably lose the £500 which the Commons of this city constantly grant to the Chief Magistrate upon his going out of office.

"To the daughter of Mr. Sheriff Trulock, for the like services, £50.

"To the son of Mr. Alderman Sankey, £100.

"To Teresa, the eldest daughter of the late Lord Mayor, Mr. Alderman Booker, £50.

"To Catherine, the wife of Mr. David Robinson, for the like services, £50.

"And upon this occasion I shall beg of your Lordship to submit to his Majesty the enclosed list of some of the unfortunate soldiers who were inhumanly houghed in the streets of Dublin. Very particular inquiry was made into the case of every man, by General Johnston's directions, before Sir John Irwine's arrival. I, therefore, can venture to assure your Lordship there is not an improper one submitted. The sum I would recommend is £6 a year to each, in addition to the Kilmainham allowance; which will produce about sixpence a day, clear. More I would not desire, lest it should prove a temptation, hard as it is to be believed, for men to maim themselves, in which opinion Sir John Irwine entirely concurs with me.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*September 13th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—If the letters I lately wrote to your Lordship should appear too unguarded and precipitate, you will be so kind as to impute the warmth of the expressions to a sense of the very unmerited treatment I have met with.

"When I perceived it to be his Majesty's pleasure to invest the Commander in chief with new powers, far beyond those which any of his predecessors had ever enjoyed, could I take a more respectful part than most earnestly to solicit my recall, that I might not be reduced to the dilemma of disobeying his Majesty's commands, or of giving up those essential rights which have hitherto been constantly exercised by every Lord Lieutenant?

Rights which I enjoyed, till it was thought proper to deprive me of them, as no longer worthy to be entrusted with them; though I am not conscious of having made an improper use of them in any one instance. If I had obeyed the dictates of my own mind, I ought not to have submitted one moment to such humiliating and mortifying treatment, that wounded my character the more sensibly, as all the world would conclude that such an affront would not have been offered to any man whose conduct had not been extremely blameable.

"I can no longer conceal from your Lordship how much I am hurt by this affair, which will affect me to the latest moment of my life; for, if my services were not thought worthy of any notice or reward, I might be allowed to hope that they did not deserve disgrace or humiliation.

"Your Lordship will recollect that I made it my request to return to England as soon as the new parliament should be elected, and the Speaker placed in the Chair. My long absence from my family, and an unavoidable inattention to my own private affairs, made me very desirous of being at home. My remaining here any longer can be of no use to the King, who has put it out of my power to do him any further service; and it can answer no other purpose than to grace the triumph of the Commander in chief, whose friends are not

insensible of the advantage he has gained over the Lord Lieutenant.

"In troubling your Lordship with this detail I have no other design than to convince you of my attachment to your Lordship, and of my most grateful sense of the many favours you have conferred on me, which alone can tempt me to remain here to the end of next month. I rely on that friendship to which I am already so much indebted that my return to England will not be protracted beyond the end of October.

"Upon the whole I flatter myself that my retreat will not be attended with any inconvenience to your Lordship; for I am of too little weight in the political scale to affect your Lordship's high station; which you have filled with so much honour and ability, that he must be a bold adventurer indeed who will presume to take the helm when you find the vessel no longer governable.

"I am, &c."

Letter from the Solicitor-General.

FROM the Solicitor-General to the Lord Lieutenant :—

"*September 14th*, 1776.

"My Lord,— .... Your Excellency must be convinced of the perfect state of tranquillity and peace which universally subsists in this Kingdom.

"From the frequent tours your Excellency has made to the North and South your Lordship has been able to form the most accurate judgment of the manners and dispositions of all sects and classes of the people; and I think I may safely venture to appeal to that experience to warrant my asserting that, since the reign of Queen Elizabeth to this day, the Papists as well as the Protestants of Ireland were never better disposed to any Prince than the present, nor better conducted as subjects than at this moment.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*September 30th*, 1776.

"My dear Lord,—Having, in my letter to your Lordship of the 3rd of June last, very fully laid before you the conduct of Mr. Robert Barry with regard to the purchase of a seat in the new parliament, I shall only beg leave to refer your Lordship to that letter, and to the several papers Mr. Lees transmitted, by my orders, to Mr. Robinson. By your Lordship's letter to me of the 29th May preceding, I observe that Mr. Barry, in his application to your Lordship, stated the impossibility of procuring a seat for less than £3,000. Your Lordship is already informed that he had the offer of one for £2,000, with this further attention to him, to enable him to make the purchase, namely a tender of £900 out of my own private pocket, which was not to be repaid until it should suit his convenience. This he declined, relying, no doubt, on the influence of his friends in England to get him entirely exempted from what I had judged necessary, for the service of government, to require. I must, nevertheless, my Lord, from a sense of duty to the King, and what I owe

to myself in my present station in this Kingdom, make this request to your Lordship, namely that this gentleman's conduct, although not marked by an entire deprivation of official appointments, may be punished with the loss of a part of them: as well for the sake of example, as to strengthen the hands of government, by adding one to the number of our friends in the House of Commons. I have, therefore, in my official letter to the Lords of the Treasury, desired that the additional salary Mr. Barry now holds of £500 a year, as Seneschal of the King's Manors, may be discontinued; and that in lieu thereof a pension of £200 a year may be granted to Mr. Barry; which, with the salary of the other office held by him of Judge of Appeals, of £300 a year, will make up to him an income of £500 a year. This, in my opinion, ought to be considered by the friends of that gentleman as a very ample compensation for his past services in parliament; and I am sure it will by your Lordship when I inform you that many gentlemen who had brought themselves into the former, and repurchased into the present parliament, do not hold offices of such considerable emolument under the Crown.

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"If what I have submitted should not meet with his Majesty's approbation, and if Mr. Barry after refusing, in a manner not less ungrateful than

disrespectful to the Lord Lieutenant, to purchase into parliament, shall be permitted to hold the £800 a year granted to him solely as a member of parliament, and a supporter of the government, your Lordship will forgive me if I repeat that the government of this Kingdom must very soon be rendered impracticable, and the chief governor, whoever he may be, reduced to the situation of a state cypher, and a useless servant to his Majesty in this country.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"*October 6th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—If during your Lordship's confinement, which I hope to God wont be long, you should have leisure to cast your eye over the enclosed paper, your Lordship will have the satisfaction to see that the revenues of this Kingdom are in a thriving state. The enclosed account exceeds considerably what I gave your Lordship reason to expect; which gives me the more pleasure, as it not only puts the government on a very respectable footing at present, but as it is likely to be the means of facilitating the measures of future administrations.

"However anxious I may be to obtain his Majesty's permission to leave this Kingdom at this

time, I cannot renew my request without some degree of reluctance, lest I should be thought to importune your Lordship at an unseasonable moment. Your Lordship has flattered me with the hopes of going to England the latter end of this month, a period to which we are advancing apace. It has not, however, yet suited his Majesty's convenience to name my successor; and I cannot help expressing my apprehensions of being detained here much longer than I had reason to expect, to my great disappointment and mortification; and to the inexpressible detriment of my private affairs, that call for all my attention at home.

"Permit me, therefore, my dear Lord, most earnestly to entreat you humbly to lay my request before his Majesty, that if it should not be deemed expedient for me to leave Ireland before the end of this month, I may, at least, hope for that indulgence in the course of next month; and that whether it may be his Majesty's pleasure that I deliver the Sword of State into the hands of a Lord Lieutenant, or of Lords Justices, I may, at all events, be allowed to return to England before the end of November.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*October 14th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have just received the enclosed paper from Mr. Clements, which I cannot deny myself the pleasure of transmitting to your Lordship, as I am persuaded it will afford you no small satisfaction to see the affairs of this Kingdom in so promising and flourishing a state. About four years ago both the Civil and Military establishments were greatly in arrear: the pensions more than a year and a half; the army clothing above two. It is very material that your Lordship should be fully apprized of these circumstances; as they cannot fail of making the Lord Lieutenancy an object far more desirable than it was when I came to it. If this pleasing prospect should induce his Majesty to name my successor, I shall be extremely happy to be eased of a burthen that becomes every day more and more grievous, as it not only begins to affect my health and spirits, but is extremely prejudicial to my private affairs, which I am almost ashamed to mention to your Lordship.

"I am, &c."

COPY OF MR. DEPUTY VICE-TREASURER'S LETTER TO MY LORD LIEUTENANT OF 12th OCTOBER, REFERRED TO ABOVE.

"MY LORD,—I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have closed the Treasury abstract of receipts and payments to Michaelmas last. At that time there remained in the Teller's hands a balance on the loan fund amounting to £51,072 9*s.* 2*d.*; on the ordinary revenue £84,340 5*s.* 8*d.* I also think it my duty to acquaint your Excellency that, pursuant to a clause in the loan act of last sessions, I have advertised to pay off such debentures as might be brought to my office for that purpose; but as I understand they now bear a premium of one per cent., the proprietors make no application for their principal money.

"If it shall be your Excellency's pleasure, I propose forthwith to pay six months clothing for the army, to the 4th January last, and a quarter's pensions to Michaelmas last, besides the usual salaries and allowances to the same period.

"When these payments shall be made I can venture to affirm the Civil and Military Establishments of this Kingdom have not been so effectually cleared since I had the honour to be Deputy Vice-Treasurer.

"I am, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt:—

"*Greenwich, October 17th, 1776, Thursday night.*

"MY LORD,—I write in a good deal of pain, but Mr. Robinson has just been here, and I feel myself bound to let you know what passed, as your anxieties must have increased in proportion to the silence that has been held. The drift of Mr. Robinson's business was to make me a party to keep your Excellency some time longer in Ireland; the particular object of this visit to engage me to say to your Excellency what they have not the confidence to request themselves. Ill as I am, my senses had not so far forsaken me as to have left me the dupe of such a plan. I know too well the consequence of not letting them speak for themselves; but my Lord North's accident prevents his writing. He cannot yet use a pen, and under this consideration I waived my scruples. The difficulties of naming your successor continue as strong as ever. His Lordship wishes, in the most earnest manner, that you could be prevailed on to continue for a short

time; but as I found that time could not be ascertained by Mr. Robinson, it amounted, I told him, to a request that you had it not in your power to grant. I touched on the Lords Justices, but I found that scheme impracticable. Every thing, says Mr. Robinson, that could be agreable to Lord Harcourt would be attended to.

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"Could Lord Harcourt stay six weeks, or two months, or thereabouts? said he. As to staying the winter I spoke peremptorily upon the point, that I did, on my conscience, believe nothing on earth could tempt you to do it; that, relying on the assurances you had received, your baggage was sent off; your household afloat; and that you were, altogether, in the most unpleasant situation that could be imagined; but still I had reason to think your regard for Lord North was so sincere that you would readily sacrifice a few weeks to his service. I knew so much of your friendship for him that I should not scruple to give it as my opinion that, provided the delay went not beyond the middle of November, his Lordship would find you not indisposed to accommodate. In the meantime, I undertook to write what had passed to your Excellency; more particularly as they desired me to do it in order that your Excellency might not think your letters were unattended to, because they were not answered.

We parted very cordial and friendly. I have agreed to go to stay a day or two at Robinson's as soon as I am able to stir. I hope it will be in five or six days. I shall be then nearer Lord North, who, I understand, wishes to see me; I am glad of it, for he is a very fair man; and by that time I hope they will enable me to write something satisfactory to your Excellency upon the subject.

"I am your Excellency's faithful

"and devoted Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*October 21st*, 1776.

"My Lord,—In consequence of the intelligence transmitted to me by Mr. Robinson, I have endeavoured to discover what grounds there are to apprehend any disturbance in this country, either from the Roman Catholics in the south and western parts, or from the Presbyterians in the northern parts, of this Kingdom. I believe I may fairly venture to assure your Lordship that there never was a greater appearance of quiet and tranquillity than at present.

"The Presbyterians, in general, are a sour and discontented people; but not more so than they have been for many years. That many of them bear a good will to their brethren in North America I make no doubt; but, from any thing that has hitherto appeared, there is no reason to suspect that their infatuation will carry them further than to supply the Americans, in a clandestine manner, and at a very dear rate, with such necessaries as they may stand in need of. Such conduct is too frequently the case among trading people. I have, however, paid a particular attention to the Province of Ulster ever since I came to Ireland. I have rebuilt a barrack at Armagh, that was quite fallen to decay, because Armagh is a very critical part where a small force keeps a considerable tract of country in awe. I am also taking steps for quartering a regiment of light dragoons or cavalry in the North, where no troops of that sort have been regularly stationed of late years. I have also taken every other precaution in my power to keep that and every other part of the Kingdom quiet.

"I was unwilling to employ severity against the White Boys in the South, until the repeated outrages of those wretches made it absolutely necessary. No less than twenty of them were executed in the course of last Spring, for the daring and atrocious cruelties and outrages they had committed in the counties of Wexford, Waterford, Tiperary, Kilkenny, Carlow, and the Queen's County. In the last of these counties the Protestant inhabitants of Mount-melick and Maryborough associated themselves, and formed a troop or company at each place, which was attended with the most salutary effects. They took an active part against the White Boys, several of whom were apprehended and brought to justice by the Mount-melick Volunteers, headed by one Mr. Flood, who is a very active Justice of the Peace in the Queen's County. These Companies

were highly approved of by the leading interests in the county, such as Lord de Vesey, who has acted with great spirit and propriety in discountenancing and suppressing the outrageous proceedings of the White Boys; as well as Mr. Dawson, Lord Carlow's eldest son, General Walsh, Lord Roden, and Deane Coote. I must add that the independent companies of Mount-melick and Maryborough were furnished with arms from the Ordnance department, at the recommendation and at the desire of the several persons before mentioned. I believe the use that has hitherto been made of these arms very sufficiently justifies the confidence that was placed in those who were entrusted with them. As for any other association, or men raised, or intended to be raised, by any particular nobleman or gentleman of property, I have had no intimation or suspicion of any such intention; and I think it is scarce possible that any thing of that kind could happen without its coming to my knowledge.

"I have seen several of the Judges since they returned from their circuits, and I find it is their opinion that this Kingdom, in general, never enjoyed a state of greater tranquillity than it appeared to do during the course of their circuits, which was perhaps the more extraordinary as the assizes were so very near the time of the general election, which is commonly a season

of riot and disorder. I lay the greater stress on the report of the Judges, more especially on those of the Lord Chief Justice Patterson, and the Solicitor-General, Mr. Scott, because they are persons of ability, of very great integrity and spirit, and zealous in the discharge of their duty. They both assure me that they never saw the country in greater tranquillity.

"With regard to the persons whose names were transmitted hither by Mr. Robinson, your Lordship may be assured they shall be attended to; and that we may come to the knowledge of what they are about if they are concerned in any schemes tending to the prejudice of his Majesty's government. By the inquiries that have hitherto been made most of the persons in question appear to be low and insignificant, from whom no danger is to be apprehended.

"I had a letter this day from Sir John Blaquiere relating to what passed between Mr. Robinson and him with regard to my further continuance here. Sir John was too well apprized of the very awkward and distressed situation I am in to give any room to think that it was possible for me to continue here beyond the end of November, when my four years will be completed, as I landed here on the 30th November, 1772. I am sorry to say that I think myself twenty years older than I was when I came here; having neither

spirits nor constitution capable of going through the fatigues of this very responsible station, from which I most humbly and earnestly request his Majesty to remove me that I may get rid of a burthen I can no longer bear; and that I may have a little leisure to attend to my own private affairs, that have already suffered considerably by my long absence.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to the Right Honourable Mr. Jenkinson :—

"*October 30th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—I am sensible of the concern you express for my present situation, which is, in truth, a most irksome one. From the moment it was thought expedient to divest me of those powers that have been entrusted to all my predecessors, I have considered myself as disgraced and dishonoured, and have most earnestly solicited my recall. What opinion will the world entertain of the man that is mean enough to submit to such mortifying and humiliating treatment? If I have, hitherto, said little about it, you may be assured that I have not been the less sensible of it. By the end of next month I shall have been here four years, during which time the business of government has not been neglected. I may say

things have been conducted with some success, and that this country has been kept quiet. How long matters may continue so I will not pretend to say; nor, circumstanced as I am, will I make myself responsible for future events. I depended on leaving Ireland about Midsummer last. I was assured the King would name a Lord Lieutenant time enough for me to return to England about Michaelmas. I have been pressed to stay to the end of October, and I now find myself as far from home as I was in January last, when I first solicited my recall. Having already offered to Lord North to remain here to the end of November, to oblige his Lordship still more I will muster up all my patience in hopes it may suit with his Majesty's convenience to allow me to come home at Christmas. I have frequently troubled Lord North with my sentiments on this subject, for I honour and respect him too much not to write to him with freedom on a subject that admits of no reserve.

"I have not yet mentioned my private affairs, that have already suffered by my long absence, and are likely to suffer still more if I remain here much longer. You have known me many years, and you know I was never apt to complain. I bore the common misfortunes of life as well as my neighbours, but my spirits now fail me, and I feel myself much more fit for the enjoyment

of my family and friends than for the very busy scenes in which I have been so long engaged, and from which I so earnestly and sincerely wish to be relieved.

"I am, &c."

Letters from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Greenwich, Saturday, November 2nd*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I am honoured with your Excellency's letters of the 21st and 24th October. Feeling myself much better on Thursday I went to London that day.

* * * * * *

"I had thus the opportunity of some conversation with Mr. Robinson, who is cordial, it is impossible to be more so. I did not see Lord North, but I am satisfied he will be disposed by Robinson to take your Excellency's situation again into consideration. He cannot but be sensible of your attentive conduct to him; indeed, I believe he is attached to your Excellency most sincerely.

* * * * * *

"Since I wrote to your Excellency I have heard, in a whisper, and from no bad authority, that Lord North will not submit to the unconstitutional powers vested in the Commander in chief of Ireland, and that he has told his Majesty, or means to tell him, that he cannot recommend

to him any person for the office of Lord Lieutenant under these humiliating circumstances. I am glad that you have wrote yourself again to Lord North. It must be always much better than anything I can say, tho' your Excellency may depend upon my best exertions. I beg the favor to know the purport of what you write on this subject as often as you have occasion to do it, that I may guide my conduct precisely.

* * * * * *

"Lady Blaquiere is very thankful for your Excellency's obliging remembrance. She still walks about, tho' she is as big as a little hogshead.

"I am, faithfully and respectfully,

"Your devoted Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

From Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Greenwich, Monday, November 18th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—If I had not wrote to your Excellency very explicitly on Saturday, that it was my firm belief you would be freed from your bondage before Christmas, I should be under very considerable anxieties upon the receipt last night of the honor of your letter of the 14th, by express. Some of the great objects of your distress are,

I conceive, before this moment quite cleared away. Your Excellency will have conceived by my letter that they were working about your removal. The pensions for the Magistrates and maimed soldiers are done ; and the kind and very affectionate part you have taken in my personal concerns will no longer give you trouble. The mist, so far as respects your Excellency, is entirely clearing away. I cannot speak with more precision about *the moment* of your return than I did on Saturday. When any thing decisive turns up I have Kelly to send off at a moment's notice.

* * * * * *

"The Duke of Northumberland declined the Viceroyalty, I believe, no later than Friday last. He took some little time to consider of it, and at last refused on account of his wife's indisposition ; for I fancy that, with respect to the rest, he had given them hopes. Lord North's principal endeavours have been to appoint some one who, in filling your Excellency's place, should vacate one which he might gratify you with. Knowing, I suppose, your Excellency's wish to be about the King's person, he has pressed Lord Ashburnham to accept the Irish Government, I fancy upon any terms. Your Excellency was to have the Groom of the Stole, which, I have good authority for saying, was to be made a Cabinet office on your account. But nothing could move Lord

Ashburnham. I am sorry for it. I know little of him, but never had a high opinion of his understanding, in which I see I was correct. My Lord Dartmouth was not only offered but pressed to take the government; and it is a fact, I know, I think so at least, that there was to be no arrangement in the succession. You was, you may depend upon it, my Lord, to be Privy Seal. The Duke of Ancaster, indeed, was mentioned, that he might vacate such an office as it was thought your Excellency would like; but, 'good God,' said Lord North, 'it is impossible to send into such a responsible station such a very egregious blockhead, who is, besides, both mulish and intractable.'

"The Chief Justices in Eyre have been in contemplation, but the one is found to be too small a man, the other not to be dealt with. Your Excellency will judge, from all this, whether Lord North acts an honourable part or not; and you will be satisfied, I believe, that, since his illness at least, he has not been negligent of your desires. If no Lord Lieutenant has yet been declared, I am clear it is owing to his hopes of making such an honorable arrangement for your Excellency as your eminent services entitle you to. I am satisfied he will, when he sees there is no longer a hope left, declare, perhaps, his enemy to the office, sooner than keep you beyond Christmas;

and I am as satisfied that he will scarce sleep after you are come over till a proper arrangement is made for you; but his first object is that you should come into it at once.

* * * * * *

"Lord Rochford would suit well enough as Lord Lieutenant, but he persists in the non-residence, which will never be granted. Lord Hillsborough has had his *quietus* from his Majesty. Lord Gower presses very strongly for Lord Carlisle. It is, in truth, too ridiculous; but, after all, if I were forced to give an opinion, I think I should be inclined to say Lord Buckinghamshire will be your successor. Lord G. Germaine, I found, was one of the loudest men at S^{t}. James' last Friday, to cry shame that you had not got your recall when you had so earnestly pressed for it. His object, together with that of the Suffolk clique, is notorious. It distresses Lord North, and, if they can prevail, they think that at the present moment their cousin of Buckingham stands foremost, with whom Lord North is certainly something committed and entangled. I believe he will be the man; I need not add I hope not; but I fancy less than ten days will determine. The blue ribbands will be given the instant the Duke of Rutland dies. His death is looked for every moment, and, the instant his breath quits

his body, your Excellency may depend upon it a Chapter will be held; at least so it is now determined; and the Earls of Rochford, Harcourt, Holderness, and Suffolk, will be invested with the order.

"I will not write any more till I have been in London. If I hear nothing further I will dispatch Lary in the evening, as I have Kelly at hand to send off at a moment when I can hear of anything decisive.

"*Monday*, 3 *o'clock.*

"I have been with Lord North for a considerable time, and am so satisfied that things are come to their crisis that I shall, this instant, dispatch Kelly, in all haste, to apprize your Excellency of them.

"Lord Buckingham, for the reasons I have mentioned, will, I think, be the man. It is my opinion Lord North will, this very day, settle it with his Majesty; but I think you may depend upon it that the declaration of a new Lord Lieutenant will be made certainly within these three days, of which I most truly wish your Excellency joy.

"With regard to my journey to Ireland, it is of course at an end; my health would not permit it, and I told Mr. Lees so some days ago. Once more, God be thanked, we shall shortly see

your Excellency here, I hope in health, and shall ever pray that you may long enjoy it.

"I am, with unfeigned truth,

"Your devoted and obliged Servant,

"J. BLAQUIERE."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE.

"*November 24th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I shall trouble your Lordship with a very few lines to express how happy I am with the prospect of soon leaving this Kingdom, for that is the great object of my wishes. Any public testimony of his Majesty's approbation of my services will be flattering to a man who has ever been ambitious of deserving it. But at this instant of time, when his Majesty's whole attention is turned towards more serious objects, it would be altogether indecent and illiberal to urge past services as a claim to favour, and it would be still more illiberal to press any arrangement merely to accommodate me, at a time when your Lordship must have so many real difficulties and embarrassments to encounter. If, therefore, his Majesty should condescend to bestow a thought on me, I would request the favour of your Lordship to assure his Majesty that I shall wait with the greatest cheerfulness and patience, till such time as it may best suit with his

convenience to employ me. It is the best return I can make to the most indulgent of Masters, and the fairest opportunity I may ever have of expressing my sense of the many favours you have conferred on,

"My dear Lord, &c."

Letter from Lord North.

FROM Lord North to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November 24th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have a thousand pardons to ask of your Excellency for leaving you so long without a successor. I assure you it has not proceeded from any want of attention to your comfort and convenience, but from other causes too long to explain to you in a letter, but which you shall be fully informed of when I have the honor of seeing you in England. I just touched on my difficulties in a letter I wrote to you from Wroxton; since that time I have, in vain, endeavoured to settle the Lieutenancy of Ireland entirely to my fancy. Various reasons have prevented it from going to those persons who were my first objects, and determined me to fix on Lord Buckingham, to whom I had promised my good offices if the appointment of those whom I had first in view should not take place. I enclose a note I received from him this morning, in which your Excellency will see that he wishes to stay in England till the 22nd of next January; when your Excellency will, I hope, be relieved from

your long and painful, but meritorious and successful, labours. Whatever reason your Excellency may have to complain that they have not been everywhere duly acknowledged, I have the happiness to feel that no complaint of that kind can relate to me. I have not only to your Excellency, but in every other place constantly declared how much I think the King and the publick, England and Ireland, owe to your administration. After having fought many hard battles, subdued many and great factions, given to the common cause the most essential assistance in the present contest with America, formed a new parliament, and amazingly increased the revenue, you will leave the government of Ireland in a state of ease and opulence, which it has not known these twenty years. I hope and believe that your successor will feel and acknowledge how much he owes to you, and that you will have no reason to doubt of the good impression your services have made in that quarter, where, of all others, you would wish to see them meet with the acceptation they deserve.

"His Majesty has consented to all your Excellency's late applications; and I should willingly comply with the arrangement you recommend for Mr. Allan, were I not hampered with former engagements which, I am afraid, will be thought to stand in his way. I will, however,

consider the matter again, and shall be glad of every opportunity of shewing my respect to your Excellency as well as of serving him.

"I should be much obliged to you if you would finish the affair of the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells before you quit the government. The King's letter has been issued some time ago, but his Majesty's law officers in Ireland have neither complied with it, nor made any return to it. I understand that the Attorney-General, when he was here, objected to the exemption from fees and other deductions. If that is his only objection let it be represented here, and another King's letter shall issue, stating the resolution of the House of Commons without any alteration. We are not inclined that any other change should be made in the instrument which we have sent from hence; but what I most earnestly desire is that the Attorney-General would, without further delay, proceed in the patents, or assign to us his reasons for not proceeding. A King's letter ought not to remain so long unnoticed.

"I have the honor to be, with the sincerest attachment, &c.

"P.S. When I tell your Excellency that his Majesty has consented to your late applications, your Excellency will not understand that I include the reversion you ask for the Solicitor-

General. His Majesty is sensible of Mr. Scott's merit, and will gladly listen to any proposal for his advancement, but he does not think that his case will justify a deviation from the rule he has laid down concerning reversions.

Letters from Lord Buckingham.

FROM Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt :—

"*November 29th*, 1776.

"My Lord,—As it was suggested to me that there was a particular form in which it was necessary for me to address your Excellency upon his Majesty's having destined me the honor of succeeding you, I checked the inclination of paying my earliest attention till that form could be ascertained; but as no information has, as yet, reached me, you will excuse any omission which your candour must conclude is not wilful.

"At Lord North's request I have named the day for my leaving London, in consideration of your Excellency's wishes to return to England; it is fixed as early as the 22nd of January. This will, I flatter myself, be esteemed, as I am sure it was meant, a particular mark of attention and respect to you. General Johnston will take the liberty of enquiring as to what part of your equipage and horses it may be agreeable to you to part with.

"It would be trespassing upon your time to say more than to express my earnest wish that

when, hereafter, his Majesty may be pleased to recall me from that country, my departure may occasion half those regrets which must attend your Excellency to the Yacht. Lieut.-Colonel Valleney, whose work has been particularly approved by the King, has undertaken to deliver this.

"I have the honor to be, with the greatest truth and respect, &c."

From Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt :—

"*December 4th*, 1776.

"My Lord,—I have, this morning, mentioned to his Majesty and to Lord North an intended request to your Excellency which they approve. It is that the Sheriffs may be appointed before your Excellency leaves Ireland. At the moment of your departure it could not be attended with particular inconvenience to you, and it would save a great deal of embarrassing solicitation to me immediately upon my arrival, in a great degree a stranger to men and things. Your Excellency will, at all events, forgive this trouble, and believe me, with the greatest truth and respect, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord North:—

"PRIVATE.

"*December 5th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—Your letter of the 24th of last month has revived my spirits; for I stood much in need of such a cordial to relieve me from a state of uncertainty and anxiety. It would have been very convenient to me, in many respects, if I could have left this Kingdom some months sooner; but, after giving your Lordship so much trouble to get Lord Buckingham to fix the time of his departure, I shall importune your Lordship no further, but shall most cheerfully submit to continue here in full confidence of his Lordship's being punctual to his engagement of the 22nd of January.

"I have not yet had the honour of hearing from Lord Buckingham, for which I am at a loss to account. I am willing to believe it must be owing to an accident; for, as I flatter myself I may be of some service to his Lordship, it cannot be his interest to shew me any disregard.

"The very kind notice your Lordship is pleased

to take of my services, and the honourable mention you make of them, will set a stamp of real value on them; because I am persuaded your Lordship would have thought less favourably of them than you have done if I had been less zealous and attentive to the welfare of his Majesty's Government, and the true interests of this Kingdom.

"I must request your Lordship to make my grateful acknowledgments to his Majesty for the late favours which he has been pleased so very graciously to grant at my recommendation, and particularly for the late instances of his Royal munificence to some of the leading interests of this city. I trust that some essential advantages will be derived from his Majesty's generosity to the citizens of Dublin, to compensate for any extraordinary expense that has been incurred on that account.

"I should not have applied for a reversionary grant, even for Mr. Scott, if it had not differed very materially from other life reversions; for it would not have induced any expense on government if Mr. Scott had survived the present grantees. But I give up the idea of a reversion for life, in hopes that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to grant the reversion of Clerk of the pleas to Mr. Scott during his Royal pleasure only.

* * * * * *

"I must, at the same time, do Mr. Scott the justice to remind you of his great and important services to the Crown; greater and more substantial than any of the servants of the Crown in this Kingdom can boast of. He stands clear of all party connections and support. His own merit first made him known; Lord Townshend first distinguished him; and I had the good fortune to recommend him to the station he now so honourably fills.

"The business of the Vice-Treasurers and Clerk of the Pells is, in a manner, settled, and by about Saturday next I shall be able to send over the draft of a King's letter that I hope will meet with your approbation. This affair, that has been some time depending, would have been settled sooner if the Attorney-General had not desired to postpone it till the term was over, that both he and the Solicitor-General, who have an immense deal of business, might have a little more leisure to attend to it.

"I am, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham:—

"*December 8th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—Yesterday morning I had the honour of your Excellency's letter of the 29th of

last month, which affords me an opportunity of congratulating your Excellency on your late appointment to a station which I am persuaded you will fill with that credit and reputation so essentially necessary for the government of this Kingdom.

"I am much obliged to Lord North, who knew how very inconvenient my continuance here has been, and to your Excellency for your acquiescence and attention to my situation so far as to give me the hopes of your leaving London on the 22nd of January. I flatter myself, when you become more acquainted with the state of this country, you will have no reason to repent of entering upon the government early enough to be acquainted with the leading people, and to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the interests of this Kingdom, before the meeting of the new parliament.

"I have told General Johnston, who spoke to me about the equipages and horses, that your Excellency may command any of them that you think fit for your purpose.

"I have the honour to be, &c."

Letter from Sir John Blaquiere.

FROM Sir John Blaquiere to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Greenwich, December 8th*, 1776.

"My Lord,— .... Might it not be advisable to state, for his Majesty's information, collected together in one official dispatch, the present state of Ireland and the state of it upon your Excellency's arrival in it. It may be done without the least reflection upon Lord Townshend, for he left it in as good a state as he found it. There was an arrear in Lord Hertford's time proportionally greater than that which you found. A state of the country as it is, with an enumeration of the several points that have been carried, and, as Lord North calls it, of the victories gained by your administration, all of them on British rather than Irish objects, appear to me to deserve this kind of notice. Posterity, or your successor only, if you please, may then be brought to see at one view the whole of your important services to the Crown and to the public. Scattered as the records now stand, they will easily be lost and forgot.

* * * * * *

"If your Excellency approves of the idea, Mr. Lees and Mr. Waite might prepare a rough draft. It might be sent me, and I could add what my knowledge and memory should help me with; but it is impossible it should be prepared any where but on the spot. I remember proposing something of this sort at the end of the first session, but Mr. Waite opposed because it was premature. He thought it would make a proper dispatch at the close of your administration. God be praised that time is now arrived. . . .

"I am ever your Excellency's devoted

"and most obliged Servant,

"J. Blaquiere."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham :—

"*December 9th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I have just this moment received the honour of your Lordship's letter. The appointment of the sheriffs is what any man, in my situation, would wish to avoid; but I shall not decline it, as I think it may be for his Majesty's service, and as it may afford me an opportunity of convincing your Excellency of the respect and esteem with which

"I have the honour to be, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"*December 12th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR LORD,—The Primate called on me a few days ago and expressed an earnest desire that, before I left this Kingdom, I might find an opportunity of laying before his Majesty his most humble request to be honoured with an Irish peerage, that may, in default of his issue male, descend to his relation, Mr. Robinson of Kent, to whom the Baronetage descends, and to whom,

I understand, his Grace intends to leave his fortune.

"The high dignity which his Grace now enjoys makes it almost unnecessary to observe that this request does not proceed from any motives of personal vanity, but from a desire to perpetuate in his family the grateful remembrance of his obligations to the King, to whose Royal favour he owes the very exalted station he now enjoys. If his Majesty shall be pleased to confer this honour on the Primate, he means to lay out his fortune in this Kingdom, which has already been so essentially benefitted by his incessant care and application in the discharge of the important duties of the station, to which his whole attention has been uniformly directed.

"The Primate's political conduct deserves the highest encomiums that can be given to it. He keeps clear of all political connections. He is an enemy to intrigue and faction. His only object is the King's service, and the most honourable support of his government. What appears very extraordinary to me is, that during my four years' residence in Ireland, his Grace has never asked the smallest favour of government. The only instance of the sort I know. I could not well avoid mentioning these circumstances without doing great injustice to the Primate's character. These facts may, in some measure, justify my presump-

tion in mentioning this affair to your Lordship, almost at the eve of my leaving this government; but I do it in this private manner, and before I take any official steps, that, in case his Majesty shall be disinclined to grant this favour, no further application may be made by,

"My dear Lord, with the greatest
"respect and esteem,
"Your Lordship's, &c."

Letter from Lord Buckingham.

FROM Lord Buckingham to Earl Harcourt:—

"*December 14th*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—I would not neglect the earliest opportunity of acknowledging your Excellency's most polite letter of the 8th of this month. A man so much a stranger to Ireland as myself must wish for every possible information. I will, therefore, flatter myself that at my arrival it may be permitted me to avail myself of your knowledge, experience, and judgment. I must also request that, in the *interim*, you will direct Sir John Blaquiere to give Mr. Heron, my secretary, such lights as may be necessary for the effectually carrying on his Majesty's government, which will ever be esteemed a particular favour.

"I have the honor to be, &c."

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Lord Buckingham :—

"*December 22nd*, 1776.

"MY LORD,—By to-morrow night, or Tuesday, I hope to furnish Sir John Blaquiere with some materials that may enable him to give your Excellency's secretary some information that may not only be useful to him, but prove very convenient and advantageous to his Majesty's affairs. When your Excellency arrives in Dublin you will find me ready, during the very short stay I shall make in this country, to give you all the assistance and information you may wish to receive from,

"My Lord, with the greatest
"truth and respect,
"Your Excellency's, &c."

From Earl Harcourt to Lord North :—

"PRIVATE.

"*January 12th*, 1777.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I did not mean to give your Lordship any further trouble during my

short continuance on this side the water, but the distresses of our poor friend Lanesborough are such, that I could not help complying with his request that he might be the bearer of a letter to your Lordship, supplicating an additional pension of £500 a year to his younger children, to be held during his Majesty's pleasure.

"As his Lordship, at this moment, enjoys a pension of £1,200 a year, it was very incumbent upon me to lay before his Lordship the many difficulties to which an application of this nature would necessarily be subjected. But, relying on your Lordship's former friendship, on my sincere regard for him, and urged by his own pressing necessities, which are not of his creating, but arising from the profligacy and extravagance of an abandoned wife, I, at last, gave way to his very pressing instances, and shall give him a letter with which he proposes to wait upon your Lordship; undertaking the journey for that purpose, and with a view of paying his respects to your Lordship. But, as I thought it highly improper, on every account, that an affair of this sort should be mentioned to your Lordship without previously apprizing you of it, I have taken this opportunity of acquainting you that, whatever may be the result of this application, your Lordship may not be taken unawares by the inattention of,

"My dear Lord, &c."

Review of Earl Harcourt's Administration in Ireland.

A SUGGESTION thrown out by Sir John Blaquiere in one of his last letters appears to have been acted upon; and the result is shewn in the following pages, which present a sketch of the chief events during Lord Harcourt's administration of Irish affairs.

Lord Harcourt's government seems to have been conducted in thorough accordance with the wishes of the King and of his ministers, until certain differences with the Irish Commander-in-chief, in which Sir John Blaquiere had some responsibility, and a misunderstanding with the English Home Office in respect to the drafting of troops to America from Ireland, caused Lord Harcourt to resign his post.

If we pass over the arrangements by which support was obtained for the government, and the system of pensions, which saddled

the tax-payers with burdens intolerable in their nature, Lord Harcourt's rule in Ireland must be considered beneficent. The exchequer was replenished with the least amount of friction, and the country was blessed with security and peace.

The melancholy ending which terminated the career of the Lord Lieutenant appears doubly sad, when we consider how earnestly he had longed for the repose and quietude which seemed within his reach at Nuneham.

All this, however, has been narrated in another place, and it now only remains to close this volume, which has attained unavoidably large proportions[a], by adding Mr. Lees' Memoir, to be followed by an Appendix.

"*Dublin Castle, January 24th*, 1777.

"MY LORD,—The following pages have nothing to recommend them to your Excellency's attention but the truths which they contain and the gratitude with which they are offered.

[a] The volume was so large that it was found necessary to divide it into two. It now forms Vols. IX. and X. of the "Harcourt Papers."

"In this short sketch, which comprehends the material transactions of Lord Townshend's and your Excellency's administrations, you will be able clearly to trace, and, I hope, with satisfaction, the principles on which his Majesty's government has been faithfully, vigorously, and steadily carried into effectual execution.

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"In resting from the painful labours, which for upwards of four years past you have unremittingly and indefatigably undergone, your Excellency will I trust feel a pleasure more solid than that which accompanies mere tranquillity and ease, when you reflect upon the eminent services which have been achieved for his Majesty and this Kingdom during your Excellency's administration. You will feel happy in this conviction of having compleated a political system which if not rashly relinquished must render your name as estimable to the Prince into whose presence you return, as they are respected and dear to the Nation of whom you find it necessary to take leave.

"I have the honor to be, with the truest devotion,

"Your Excellency's
"ever grateful and most sincerely
"attach'd humble Servant,
"JOHN LEES."

Lord Townshend's Administration.

INTRODUCTION.

"IN the year 1767, when, upon the resignation of Lord Bristol, Lord Townshend was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the administration of this Kingdom was almost as absolutely in the hands of three or four Irish potentates as in former days it had been in the possession of Irish petty Princes upon the landing of Strongbow, in the reign of Henry the Second. The three next preceding Chief Governors, Lords Halifax, Northumberland, and Hertford, had found it necessary, in carrying on the King's business, as well as essential to their own personal quiet, to accommodate, to temporize, and very frequently to submit to those Irish Undertakers.

"It was a time of profound peace; yet no unusual requisition had been made on the part of the Crown, and no effort had been exerted by the authorities to restrain those enormous abuses, which, by dissipating the revenues of the Kingdom and usurping the Royal patronage, had so much contributed to oppress the people and aggrandize their rulers.

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"In addition to the power of the 'Junto,' the dif-

ficulties encountered at the commencement of Lord Townshend's administration were increased by some incautious menaces which had been launched by Lord Bristol. These menaces answered no other purpose than to put the Irish Undertakers thoroughly on their guard, and to give them sufficient time and opportunity to fortify themselves, to inflame the minds of their adherents, and, by the exercise on their part of every species of management and address, to render the residence of a Chief Governor in this Kingdom unsupportable and impracticable; as a consequence, when Lord Townshend arrived in this country he found that the Undertakers had combined against his government, not only every man of large parliamentary connection, but likewise almost every one distinguished for professional or personal abilities in the State, with the exception of Lord Tyrone, Mr. Malone, and Lord Chief Justice Patterson, then Solicitor-General, and had prepared them to seize the first fit occasion to rout the Lord Lieutenant out of the Kingdom, or to rule him as absolutely and despotically as they had heretofore dictated to and governed the weakest and most helpless of his predecessors.

"His Lordship's temperament was naturally not exactly formed to brook control, and having a quick and discerning eye, he saw instantly the necessity of raising an army of recruits to oppose

those trained bands thus disciplined and headed by his adversaries. For this purpose he addressed himself familiarly to the gentry; entered at once into their genius and national turn to festivity; looked out for all the young men of talents, and, by every art of insinuation and attention, engaged the affections of unconnected individuals, and raised a jealousy and discontent amongst many of the followers of the faction.

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"An augmentation of the army was thought necessary by his Majesty. The Lord Lieutenant deemed it wise to try, upon what was understood to be a favorite measure of the King's, how far his Majesty's servants and those Noblemen in Ireland who had been most distinguished by marks of the Royal favor would venture to hazard their situations and characters in opposition to the Royal wishes. By the vigorous exertions he caused to be put forth in the decision of that question in the House of Commons, he shewed the Undertakers the great independent strength of government, and at once exposed to the nation their weakness as a faction, and their ingratitude to the sovereign. He lost the question, it is true, by a majority of four, but in this single defeat he laid the permanent foundation of every future victory.

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"A law for limiting the duration of parliaments to eight years had been introduced by some popular leaders for their own sakes, and had been adopted by the Undertakers, partly from motives of opposition to government, but principally from a hope that without any probability of its passing into a law, they might gain credit with the nation, keep faith with their new allies, the Opposition, and be able to throw the odium of a rejection upon the Chief Governor.

"This bold and desperate hazard seems to have gone farther than the Undertakers could have wished, for the English government, being apprized of the game that those gentry were playing, sent back the bill with some immaterial alterations, determined at all events to let it pass. Accordingly, upon its return to Ireland, the bill passed into law, contrary to the interest and inclination of almost every man who voted for it in the House of Commons.

"This law, which altered the constitution of this Kingdom so materially has, among many others, been attended with the following certain and obvious consequences; by shortening the duration of parliaments, and necessarily enlarging the scale of expence, the establishments have been burdened, the power of particular families considerably diminished, borough hunting has become a more general pursuit, individuals have grown more

important, the House of Lords has grown more respectable and crowded, the House of Commons has become more insignificant, and the Crown, in the end, has been rendered more powerful and independent.

"In consequence of the dissolution which took place under this law a new parliament was called, and, the same disposition continuing in the Undertakers, his lordship thought proper to prorogue the new parliament, having first taken care to pass the bills for granting the supplies, in which were included a provision for the augmentation, which measure had failed in the preceding session.

"The interval of the recess was employed by his Lordship in initiating vigourous measures for a parliamentary campaign, and in providing for the general defence of the Kingdom.

"Lord Shannon, Lord Lanesborough, and M^r. Ponsonby, were removed, the first from the board of ordnance, the two latter from the revenue board; and Lord Ely, with a considerable following, was detached from his kinsman M^r. Ponsonby.

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"The dignity of the government being thus, in some degree, restored, by rescuing the power of the Crown out of the hands of those servants who, by an abuse of their trust, had usurped its influence, the business of parliament, during a short session

in spring, 1771, went on with a surer foot, embarrassed though it was by the most peevish and harassing opposition. Scarcely a day passed without a debate which lasted from nine to twelve hours, and his Lordship's dispatches were often prepared between the hours of 12 at night and 3 o'clock in the morning. This parliamentary warfare was frequently carried on upon idle amendments to trivial resolutions, points of order, and proceedings of the House of Commons. It was at last found necessary to question the judgment of the then Speaker, Mr. Ponsonby, in three or four striking instances where his decision was found to lean invariably to the faction that supported him. On these occasions Mr. Tisdale, the Attorney-General, who then conducted the House of Commons in support of the administration, defeated the Speaker, who, finding that his followers deserted him, resigned the chair, from which, indeed, Lord Townshend had it in contemplation to remove him. Mr. Pery, the present Speaker, was then, by a majority of four only, elected by the supporters of administration.

"Upon the meeting of parliament in the following October, for purposes of supply, the virulence of the opposition was renewed, and was exercised to such an intolerable degree, that it soon after became necessary for the government to take measures of self-defence. The first step taken

was to introduce a clause into the Commissioners' patent, making the appointment to all employments subject to the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant for the time being; and secondly a board of accounts was instituted consisting of five Commissioners, whose business it was to audit and examine all impress and other accounts which did not fall under the controul of the Lord Chancellor and Chancellor and Barons of the Exchequer; officers who, by the act of Henry the 7th, were appointed to settle the national revenues.

"This session was also distinguished by the repeal of a clause in the revenue Act of the 14 and 15 Cha. 2nd, which gave a drawback of half the custom upon all rum imported from his Majesty's plantations into England, and afterwards exported from thence. The old law, in fact, operated as a premium upon smuggling, as, by touching upon the coasts of England, Scotland, or Wales, before a landing in Ireland, the greater part of the cargo was generally 'run.' The estimate of the saving to the hereditary revenue from the repeal of this clause was computed to amount to no less than £40,000, and was the avowed justification, on the part of the government, for any increase of expence which the subsequent division of the revenue boards, and the establishment of the new board of accounts must have created.

"Before Lord Townshend's time nothing was

more universal than the practice of exchanging pensions, and selling civil employments and half pay. The public prints were filled with advertisements of persons who wished to buy or sell or exchange offices. The consequences were evident. No man felt his obligation to the Crown, nor any obligation to fit himself for his station. To Lord Townshend's administration belonged the honour of insisting that the only allowable claims to preferment or recommendation, should be zealous attachment to the government, long and faithful service, and capacity and eminent integrity. Thus a shameful and ruinous traffick was, under these regulations, universally put an end to.

"The administration of Justice had been shockingly perverted and abused in Ireland by the most partial appointment of such sheriffs as best suited the convenience or tended to gratify the resentments of a few great men.

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"But this state of affairs was soon put an end to under the new *regime*—which aimed at teaching moderation and justice to all parties.

"The Irish Privy Council had arrogated to itself the power of controuling the property and influence of Corporations just as it answered the private purposes of the Undertakers. This enormity was grounded upon a misconstruction of the

rules annexed to, and prescribed by, a law in Charles the 2nd's time, by which the Lord Lieutenant and Council are empowered to approve or disapprove of Magistrates, annually chosen. This power was intended merely to guard against the machinations of persons supposed to be disaffected; but upon many occasions the Lords Justices and the Council took upon themselves to go into the merits of elections at large; and so by that summary and unwarranted proceeding they superseded his Majesty's Courts of law, and gave away a borough with as much ease as they signed a Warrant of *Concordatum*. The first instance in which this abuse was corrected serves no less to shew the magnanimity of the Chief Governor than the indecent and ungrateful opposition that was offered to him.

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"The military state of this country had been miserably neglected, and, tho' no nation, from every circumstance relative to its local and political situation, more required protection and defence, yet none on earth was, at the commencement of Lord Townshend's administration, more defenceless. During the Duke of Bedford's administration a French smuggler, Monsr. Thurot, with three or four contemptible vessels, threw the whole Kingdom into confusion and consternation, and almost threatened a general bankruptcy.

"Lord Townshend made, in the recess of his first parliament, a tour to the south of Ireland attended by engineers and persons qualified to execute his designs. He repaired several fortifications; caused correct charts to be made of the coast; and organized a plan for a line of barracks to run from south to north, quite thro' the Kingdom. This plan, if carried out in its integrity must, besides affording ample accommodation for the King's army, tend at once to civilize the natives, and to defend them against foreign enemies, as well as against each other.

"The law for limiting the duration of parliaments would have operated more slowly in demolishing the extravagant power and strength of the Irish potentates, had not the law for determining controverted elections upon petitions to parliament, been passed in this Kingdom in aid of the octennial law.

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"It was notorious that during the late reign, and before it, every candidate for a seat in parliament, whatever his pretensions or his merits, constantly made it the foundation of his expectations to inlist under the banners of certain parliamentary leaders; and voting for or against such a petitioner was as much a matter of course and question of power as dividing about snuffing or lighting the candles. Every candidate openly solicited, and in his solicitation stated that Mr. Ponsonby or the Primate, Lord Shannon or the Duke of Leinster, was his friend.

"This indecent license gave those leaders entire ascendancy, so that the House of Commons, and a great part of the House of Lords, were their creatures and nominees. This law, however, which introduced a sworn jury, gave conscientious men such an argument, and selfish men such a pretext, for doing right, or, at least, for not implicitly doing wrong, that it instantly cut the tap root of those potentates' power; and, from the instant that Lord Townshend passed this law, called in England Mr. Greenville's act, every man was at liberty to act as he pleased, by following the dictates of conscience, or his judgment, or his will, according to his character.

"Another abuse which contributed to this provincial tyranny was the privilege of parliament. Many members got into parliament to protect their estates from chancery, and their persons from a gaol. The law for taking away the privilege of parliament (tho', with much difficulty, passed in Lord Townshend's time, and made perpetual in Lord Harcourt's), proportioned men's credit to their integrity, and not to the protection of their parliamentary patrons. It extended, however, only to members of parliament, and their real or adopted servants; and, therefore, it became

necessary, not only for the purpose of satisfying the creditors of members of parliament, but also of all persons connected with them, to make a further provision for their debts. This was effected by the mortgage law, passed in the same administration, by which every mortgagee was empowered to apply to a court of equity, by petition, as soon as a year and a half's interest had become due, and to have a receiver appointed over the entire estate of his debtor, without the trouble or expence of instituting a suit or filing a bill. Still, however, the spirit of dissipation and expence, and those frauds which must ever attend men whose distresses arise from profligacy, made it necessary to go one step further by the passing a bankrupt law, by which some stability was given to the mercantile credit of this Kingdom. By this law British creditors were placed upon an equal footing with Irish creditors; Merchants were prevented from passing fictitious securities to their kinsmen and neighbours; and a fictitious and spurious credit was abolished. Thus, men learned to live in proportion to their real means, to support themselves by industry, and to imitate the example of their British correspondents whom they had formerly made the dupes of their imposition, and the victims of their knavery and expence.

"These were the principal laws passed under

Lord Townshend's administration, which was characterised throughout by scenes of warfare, struggles for power, and contests for superiority.

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"The united powers of the Kingdom were interested in opposing the government; the passions of the people were inflamed; the press teemed with hourly scurrility and libellous invective; and every tongue that could talk, and every pen that could scribble, were hired to villify and calumniate the chief governor.

"It was not, therefore, extraordinary that upon Lord Harcourt's appointment to the government of Ireland, in 1772, he found himself crossing a very troubled sea, and felt it an enterprize of the most arduous difficulty to conduct with any degree of honor and safety to himself, and advantage to his Sovereign, the administration of a Kingdom rent with faction, inflamed with prejudice, immersed in debt, sunk in credit, exhausted in resources, and distracted by the intrigues and ambition of its irritated, but not yet overwhelmed, leaders and partizans.

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"To expect good humour from an exasperated parliament; to call for money from an exhausted treasury; to prescribe economy to a corrupt community; to impose taxes upon a bankrupt nation; to demand forces from a defenceless people; were

difficulties peculiar to Lord Harcourt's administration. Such difficulties were surmountable only by the most extraordinary exertions of sagacity and spirit, by a persevering attention to business, an unruffled temper, a uniform steadiness of conduct, and an unremitting zeal for the King's service, and for the public welfare."

Earl Harcourt's Administration.

LORD HARCOURT having arrived at Dublin Castle the 30th November, 1772, to take upon him the government of Ireland, the following sheets will contain a brief account of the principal transactions during his administration, founded upon the most unquestionable evidences.

For the sake of order and distinctness the subjects are divided into chapters of one or more articles each.

CHAPTER I.

STATE OF PARTIES AT EARL HARCOURT'S ENTRANCE UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND.

"As the opening of Lord Harcourt's first session drew near, his Excellency found it desirable to consider the dispositions and designs of the principal men of note in the Kingdom.

"Lord Shannon, who had made his approaches to the Castle upon the eve of Lord Townshend's

retreat, was, from the superiority of his following, as well as from the strength of his understanding, the first whom it was necessary to approach. He asked no other terms for his friends than such as had been proposed to Lord Townshend, and by him transmitted to England. These terms were, as far as practicable, very readily agreed to on Lord Harcourt's part; and Lord Shannon was thenceforth received and treated as that unequivocal supporter of the government which he has since proved himself to be thro' the whole of the present administration.

"The Duke of Leinster professed personal attachment to his Excellency, but wished to stipulate and prescribe.

"Mr. Ponsonby, at the beginning, shewed himself so poor a politician that he omitted the most common civilities due to a new Lord Lieutenant. He, however, greedily embraced the opportunity of waiting on his Excellency at the head of the Protestant Dissenters when they presented their address. He then made an apology for not having presented himself sooner, which, he said, was owing to his having mistaken the Levee day. The characteristic unsteadiness of this gentleman made his appearance of goodwill a true prognostic of opposition.

"Mr. Flood, who had long acted in constant and violent opposition to the government, during

Lord Townshend's administration, came at a sufficiently early period to wait on Lord Harcourt, who upon that occasion shewed no eagerness about securing his support, however desirable it afterwards became to attach him to government.

"It may be sufficient, on the subject of parties, to add, that Lord Ely and his adherents were already detached from opposition and provided for; Lord Tyrone and his friends firmly attached; the Gores divided, and not to be considered as of much consequence; the unconnected patriots meditating the gratification of their own private views; and the Townshend squadron compact and quiet.

"In fine, although in several instances support was withheld which might have been expected from men most highly favoured, yet the influence of the Crown, upon the whole, predominated. What was most reassuring, however, was that, in all cases of importance, Lord Harcourt had the pleasure to see his administration supported by men of respectable characters and independent fortunes, who neither had received nor asked favours for themselves nor their friends.

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"In all these matters great assistance was rendered by the address, quick discernment, firmness, and abilities, of the Chief Secretary, and by a few

chosen faithful friends, among whom Mr. Scott, now Solicitor-General, bore a distinguished part, and gave, on all occasions, a ready, decisive, and effectual support.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PUBLIC DEBTS AND FUNDS, EXCLUSIVE OF APPROPRIATED DUTIES[a].

"These, at the first glance, afforded but a melancholy prospect; the revenue had, in effect, declined for years back; insomuch that upon comparing the *net* hereditary revenue and additional duties for the five years preceeding 1772, with the five years preceeding 1767, there was found to be a decrease upon the latter five years of £106,621. The national debt, by the generosity of the late King, had been paid off entirely in 1753. Under the administration, however, of the Duke of Bedford in the year 1759 this debt began again to accumulate, and has continued to do so under every succeeding government up to the present time; until at Lady-day, 1773, it was voted to amount to £994,890.

"The distress occasioned to the treasury was very great, and a further alarming circumstance was exhibited by the existence of heavy arrears

[a] Appropriated duties making no part of the Hereditary Revenue.

upon the establishments both civil and military. An exhausted treasury afforded no hopes of any fund, to be relied on, for supplying even the most immediate and necessary expences of government, far less of discharging the arrears. The deficiency for the two years preceeding Lady-day, 1773, was no less than £138,840 per annum. That is to say, the hereditary revenue, burdened, as it had been of late years, by corn premiums, bounties, parliamentary grants, &c., was now become insufficient, in a sum to that extent, for paying up the establishments and defraying the other necessary expences of the government.

"Added to the above burdens, at this time, or rather upon the 30th November, 1772, the day of Lord Harcourt's arrival in Ireland, the pension list — including French pensions — amounted to £79,933.

"An enormous expence had also been entailed on the hereditary revenue by the bounties paid for various articles, particularly corn by land carriage. This had increased every year since its commencement in 1758, under the Duke of Bedford's administration. And in the year ending at Lady-day, 1773, it amounted to no less than £44,508.

"These causes are justly to be considered sufficient in themselves to account for an exhausted treasury, which, at this period, threatened Ireland with bankruptcy and disgrace.

"The shortest view that can be given of affairs, as they then stood, is this,

In the accompts made up for the two years ending Lady-day, 1773, the charges of government were .	£1,621,142
The revenues produced only . .	1,343,461
Consequently there was a deficiency of revenue, for that period, of . .	277,680
Or, for one year, of . . .	138,840
Also an arrear due upon the several establishments at Michaelmas, 1773, of	265,000
To be provided for . . .	£403,840

"How provision was to be made for so large a sum, immediately wanted both to supply the most pressing demands of government, and to save the state from the danger of bankruptcy, seemed no easy matter to determine upon. Much deliberation was necessary, and little time allowed for it. A plan, however, was speedily and well digested, and as happily executed; some account of which shall form the subject of the following chapter.

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"Every thing being prepared for the parliament, which was to meet on the 12th October, 1773, his

Excellency opened his first session by a very short speech. He did not chuse, however, to alarm the House of Commons by such a picture of the state of affairs, with regard to debts and funds, as he might justly, and from his own feelings, have drawn; and he, therefore, left these things to be discovered in the common and necessary course of enquiry.

CHAPTER III.

PLAN FOR PAYING OFF THE ARREARS, AND EQUALIZING THE REVENUE TO THE CHARGES OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING NEW REGULATIONS, REDUCTIONS, AND NEW SUPPLIES.

"*First, as to arrears.*

"The expedient hit upon was to raise £265,000 by a tontine act, granting life annuities, or interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum, with benefit of survivorship.

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"The effect of this act was soon seen in the rise of government debentures upon the old loan from 91 to 99; and several leading members of the opposition expressed the highest approbation of the scheme, in general, and did not scruple to declare that they considered the restoration of public credit to be imputed singly to the operation

of the Tontine scheme. The difference in debentures alone amounted to £80,000, which was, in effect, so much gained to the nation. The treasury was relieved, the public was pleased, and individuals who had before hoarded up their wealth, either to embarrass government, or turn the public exigency to a usurious advantage, in expectation of a new loan, were now obliged to lend those sums out to persons in trade, or upon mortgage. In short a general vigour seemed to have been infused into the money market, and in the place of stagnation and despondency a universal circulation took place. This instance of successful operation in finance, and the retrenchments which took place upon the re-uniting of the revenue boards, and the reduction of parliamentary grants, gave a general credit to the administration, and procured to it a confidence without which it had been impossible to have carried any of those considerable points which were afterwards obtained for the Crown without a murmur.

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"With respect to the annual deficiency of £138,840 his Excellency's first consideration was to estimate what might be done by regulation and reduction.

"*Parliamentary grants restricted.*

"It had been a practice during many years for

parliament to grant away very considerable sums, in every bill of supply, under a multitude of pretences, such as, the encouragement and execution of public works; rewards to ingenious men; compensation in this and the other case; which in general, and with very few exceptions, were all of them mere private jobs. Lord Townshend found these grants increased to the amount of £119,000, and it was a strong proof of his Lordship's management that he was able to reduce them to £67,000 in his last session of parliament.

"In Lord Harcourt's first session they were reduced to £34,000 including the £4,000 of allowance to the Speaker; so that in place of £17,000, as estimated, there has been a saving of £33,000 upon this article.

"In respect to the corn premiums, the excess of which in the two years ending 1775 amounted to £33,577, such excess was provided for and made good by the Tontine act of the second session, as shall be more particularly mentioned in its proper place.

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"The next measure that came under Lord Harcourt's consideration was the absentee tax.

"For half a century past the Irish, in general, had considered a tax upon absentees as a most just and necessary one, and it was held in Ireland that if an English ministry could be prevailed

upon to listen to it, it would be so salutary in its consequences, as to relieve this Kingdom from the greatest of its distresses. The opinion was formed upon the following grounds: that Englishmen possessing great estates in Ireland and residing constantly in England did, by spending their incomes there, impoverish this country, without contributing ought to the public expence. That the nobility and gentry of Ireland whose business or pleasure led them to London or to Bath to spend their fortunes, did, so far, apply the produce of their estates to the advantage of a foreign country.

"That, in both cases, the non-resident Irish proprietors became exempted from many of those taxes to which residents in the country were liable, and which, therefore, fall the heavier on those who remained in the Kingdom. That, consequently, there was a sort of delinquency in this practice which ought not to be suffered if a remedy could be found. The natural and reasonable remedy appeared to be a tax of so much in the pound on absentees. It was argued with respect to those who had estates in England, and constantly resided there, that this would make some compensation to Ireland for the money annually drawn out of it; and as to those who left it occasionally, it would either restrain such a humour, or counterbalance its effects. It was

imagined, however, that the English ministry, too partial where the immediate interest of England was in question, would never consent to such a law.

"Lord Harcourt, being made acquainted with the wishes of Ireland upon this subject, and thoroughly apprized of the magnitude of so important a measure, found it necessary, at a time of uncommon distress for resources, to recommend the consideration of this tax to the English administration.

"His Majesty and his ministers acquiesced in the idea, provided it should be accompanied with other taxes, such as the Stamp act; but a particular point was made that at the same time a limitation should be set to the enormous expence of the bounty on corn by land carriage.

"Lord Harcourt became, therefore, pledged on the one side, and the English ministry on the other, conditionally to carry this project into execution. The scheme was soon publickly known, and the Duke of Devonshire, Lords Rockingham, Milton, Shelburne, Besborough, and others, were alarmed. A correspondence between them and Lord North took place, and was printed. These Lords were in opposition, and, having great estates in Ireland, would be principally affected by it. This circumstance gave a new complexion to the affair, and tended, not a little, by adding public

prejudice to the private interest of individuals, to make those who first expressed the warmest wishes in favour of the scheme the principal instruments in its defeat. Lord Harcourt permitted a motion to be made for this tax. Sir John Blaquiere declared his Excellency's sentiments to the House, and the part government meant to take on the occasion, namely, not to lead but to follow the wishes of the House. Administration here acted fairly, and Lord North was steady to his real engagements. A very long debate ensued; but, upon a division, the motion was rejected by 120 to 106.

"However surprising such an issue was upon a measure of such expectation and supposed general desire, yet it was equally surprising, and most embarrassing to the Castle, to find a motion made the following evening, in a very thin House, and at a late hour, to have the question re-considered. The Secretary prevailed with the House to postpone the re-consideration for two days. It was again moved, and debated for nine hours; and, at last, this tax, so long the hope and expectation of Ireland, was a second time rejected, and without a division, by the Irish House of Commons. This marked so plainly the motives of opposition to Lord Harcourt's administration, and threw the odium of rejection so strongly upon the popular leaders, that the public, from thenceforward, suspected the sincerity of the patriots, and placed a greater confidence in the integrity of the Lord Lieutenant.

CHAPTER IV.

OF AFFAIRS DURING THE RECESS OF PARLIAMENT.

"Dr. Andrews, the Provost of Trinity College, having died, it became a matter of some difficulty how to arrange the Office of Provost. The emoluments were from £2,000 to £2,500 a year; the trust highly important; some patronage; a borough, if well managed; and the place uniformly granted for life.

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"Mr. Ponsonby, without any past merit with administration, or any security for future support, asked it, and was instantly refused. Mr. Flood, whose merit was founded chiefly in his not using his very considerable powers of speech against the government, had, from some late conversation with Sir John Blaquiere, conceived that it was his Excellency's intention to give him the first great employment which should become vacant. He affected to be much chagrined that the place of Provost was not offered, altho', at the same time, he rated himself so highly as not to say whether he would have accepted it.

"Mr. Hutchinson had all along been a warm supporter of Lord Harcourt's administration. He held the offices of Prime Sergeant and Alnager. He offered to relinquish both for the Provostship. His Excellency was pleased to find a decent layman, whose advancement to an office for which he was esteemed eminently well qualified might be supposed especially to forward the King's business. Mr. Hutchinson was considerable in point of station, fortune, and abilities, a very good scholar, and seemed chiefly desirous of relief from attendance at the bar, that he might have leisure to cultivate and enjoy his taste in letters. He was an old servant of the Crown, and dependent upon it for many grants, during pleasure.

"Lord Harcourt, finding that he could not, at that time, fix upon any other man better qualified for the station, recommended, with much warmth, Mr. Hutchinson for the place of Provost. His Majesty consented; and, tho' no man was surprised at his getting the office, yet many were amazed to find that he had solicited it. It was then understood that he was to retire from the bar, and apply himself wholly to the business of the college, and that of government in the House of Commons. The salary of £1,000 which had been added to the Alnage was transferred to him and his three sons, under a different title, that of searcher, packer, and gauger, of Strangford.

"Lord Harcourt intended the office of Alnager, with an additional salary of £1,000, making together £1,800 a year, for Mr. Flood, considering it as a very ample provision for that gentleman. He, however, declined it in every way that the proposition could be made to him. Full of his own importance, he had now set his heart upon the emoluments of the Vice-Treasurership. This his Excellency found himself under the necessity of recommending, and, after almost insurmountable difficulties, this office was obtained for him. Mr. Flood then affected to refuse it under pretence that it came accompanied with new burdens on the establishments. But about the time of the meeting of the second session he suffered himself to be persuaded that, if the place was still open, he could not do better than accept of it. A new application was made, and this business, extremely vexatious from first to last, was at length settled to Mr. Flood's apparent satisfaction.

"The office of Alnager was given to the Secretary[b] for a term of thirty-one years; and the Prime Serjeancy to Mr. Dennis, the principal friend of Lord Shannon, which opened another movement or two in the narrow line of the law.

"A plan was formed to deprive the King of his inheritance in the Phœnix Park.

"Mr. Ponsonby and the Opposition had, by al-

[b] Colonel Blaquiere.

tering the measure of beer and ale in a former session, lessened the hereditary revenue £20,000 per annum. If such a Royalty as the Phœnix Park could have been wrested from the Crown, between the sessions, it would have been a victory of more consequence than a volume of resolutions; its intrinsic value being not less than £200,000, and the dishonour to the Crown more than ten times that sum, if it should be lost.

"The scheme which occurred was by presenting one of the King's lodges as a nuisance; and from one it was intended to go to another, and so on until four or five beautiful improvements, upon which not less than £10,000 had been expended, should be prostrated. An effort had been made about fourteen years before upon the Royal Hospital, and in some degree successfully, by levelling the walls round it, and making three or four common roads through the King's private estate.

"The attempt was made upon the Park at the summer quarter sessions. The Bailiff's lodge, with the improvements about it by enclosure, were presented as a common nuisance to the citizens of Dublin, who claimed it under pretended corporation charters, by prescription, or as a common by usage.

"The utmost vigilance and activity were employed by his Excellency to prevent the immediate prostration. The presentment was traversed. One of the Judges of the King's Bench, Mr. Justice Robinson, whether from motives of resentment or pique, or for the purpose of laying a foundation of future request, or for popularity, or from a combination of these motives, absolutely joined the mob, and, by opinion out of court, and every other means that he could suggest, endeavoured to have the presentment supported and the lodge prostrated.

"The presentment was, with difficulty, removed into the King's Bench to be tried; and recently, before the trial, the venerable judge who was to try the cause came to his Excellency to solicit a pension of £400 per annum for his wife, which was heard with patience, but rejected with disdain. The indecency of his conduct upon the trial was aggravated afterwards by his refusing, under pretence of being a check upon the Royal Grace, to countersign a pardon granted by the Lord Lieutenant, tho' expressly directed to do it by Act of Parliament. These acts were followed by several other outrageous instances of sedition and rapacity on his part, such as making peremptory demands of sums of money for the ordinary execution of his duty; and formally proposing to his brethren upon the bench, upon a scarcity of cash in the treasury, that until they should be first paid their stipends they should not go circuit. These

things together obliged his Excellency to lay the particulars of his conduct before his Majesty's Attorney and Solicitor-General of England; and, upon their report, apply to have him removed. But the verdict of the jury, after a laborious research into the King's titles, being in favour of the Crown, motives of compassion to the Judge's age and family induced his Excellency to spare him, and the punishment of his enormities was suspended for the present.

"This manœuvre of Opposition was the most indecent and outrageous; the jury were, by practising on the Sheriff, selected from the most noted leaders in opposition, and from the marked followers of Mr. Ponsonby. The success of the Crown, therefore, was chiefly due to Mr. Scott, since made Solicitor-General, whose active vigilance during the whole of that business, as well as his uniform fidelity and zeal for the King's service, during the administrations of Lord Townshend and Lord Harcourt, would make it unjust to pass over in silence his distinguished exertions and abilities in the political history of those times.

"The title of the Crown being established, and the attempt to overthrow it sufficiently exposed, such a damp was cast upon every factious experiment that no further attempt was made upon any of the King's rights, previous to the second session. Upon the commencement of that epoch

there was not (with the exception of Mr. Scott) a single servant of the Crown who did not either openly or secretly oppose the administration. The Provost loitered in the country, and declined attending the speech from the throne. The Attorney-General had uniformly acted coldly or with hostility. The Prime Sergeant attended to his private concerns. Mr. Flood had not yet accepted the office of Vice-Treasurer. America was in arms, and it had been industriously circulated thro' Great Britain, and asserted in the English House of Lords, that the Irish to a man were disposed to take part with America.

CHAPTER V.

TRANSACTIONS IN LORD HARCOURT'S SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, 1775-6.

"This Parliament having met for the dispatch of business, the 10th October, 1775, His Excellency opened it with a speech, and

"1. *The Parliament of Ireland in their addresses to his Majesty declare their abhorrence of the American rebellion.*

"Lord Harcourt, from a zeal for the King's service, tho' he might have declined the difficulty, was determined to contradict what had been asserted in the English Parliament, and, by a na-

tional declaration, make the Parliament and people of Ireland parties in the war against America. For this purpose, in his speech at the opening of this session, he pronounced the Colonists rebels, and drew from both Houses of Parliament addresses filled with the warmest terms of loyalty to the Crown, and abhorrence of the American rebellion.

"He saw that omitting an attempt of this kind would be deserting his Royal Master, and that silence upon the subject would be the most explicit declaration in favor of America. It was certainly a bold attempt on the part of Irish government, and the events which followed it proved its wisdom and advantage to English administration. A long and violent debate ensued upon the addresses, which was upheld and conducted on the part of government in the House of Commons almost entirely by the Secretary and Mr. Scott, Mr. Ponsonby's and the Duke of Leinster's followings were vehement in their opposition; but, on a division, the address was carried by 99 to 49. And, in the House of Lords, a similar address by 31 to 5.

"2. *Four thousand Men spared for the American War.*

"It had been asserted by many leaders in Opposition, in the English Parliament, that Ireland

had, at that time, in her power either Peace or War with America; and Mr. Bourke, particularly, had censured the dulness of his countrymen in omitting to take advantage of the critical situation, either to distress Great Britain by peremptory and unusual demands on the behalf of Ireland, or by declaring their sentiments in favor of the Colonies. Thus they would force English administration to terms of reconciliation and concession, which might make the colonists partizans of Ireland upon future occasions.

"The loyal and explicit conduct of the Irish Parliament not only kept the Northern Presbyterians quiet, but absolutely pledged the Nation for supply. The English Minister accordingly availed himself of the opening given to him by his Excellency, and immediately made a requisition for 4,000 men to be sent from the Irish Establishment to America. He, nevertheless, thought it reasonable, not only that England should pay those 4,000 men, but should also replace them by 4,000 foreigners, to be likewise paid by Great Britain. In other words, that in return for Ireland's sparing 4,000 men, England should pay 8,000 men. So highly advantageous, and of such importance was it at that time thought to the King's service to have a force from Ireland on any terms.

"When the augmentation in 1769 was carried

by administration, it was upon an express stipulation that there should be 12,000 men kept constantly in Ireland for its defence, except in cases of rebellion or invasion in Great Britain. This stipulation was recited in every act of supply, from that time, as the consideration for Ireland's making provision for the payment of the 15,046 men upon the Irish Establishment.

"A message was prepared by his Excellency, and sent to both Houses of Parliament, signifying his Majesty's pleasure that 4,000 men should be sent from Ireland to America; and giving an option to have those 4,000 men replaced by foreign troops, if the parliament thought proper.

* * * * * *

"To this message an answer was returned offering the 4,000 Irish, and declining, for the present, to request foreigners in their place.

"The Opposition in the English House of Commons raised two objections to the measure: 1. That Lord Harcourt had undertaken for the British Parliament, that they should pay for 4,000 men; and, next, that his Excellency had made a proposal which was contrary to law, viz^{t}., to introduce foreigners; a proceeding which could not be effected without an English act. To these objections the answer was simple and obvious. Lord Harcourt's message was on behalf of Great Britain, if Great Britain should think proper to fulfil the

terms. These terms, both as to the payment of the troops and the introduction of foreigners must be ratified by the English Parliament. If that Parliament did not think proper to comply, matters would remain as they were.

* * * * * *

"By proceeding thus a great deal of time and debate would be saved; for, if the measure had first been suggested in the English Parliament, the Opposition would not only have resisted it there, but would have endeavoured to inflame the minds of the Irish against it; whereas having first obtained the consent of the Irish Parliament, nothing remained afterwards but to obtain the concurrence of the British Parliament to an act already agreed to by the country to be principally affected. In further support of the mode agreed to by Lord Harcourt, it was the opinion of the most eminent lawyers, that the King could send foreigners to Ireland, without the consent of the British Parliament, if his Majesty paid them himself. His Excellency's action was, however, complained of in the English House of Commons, but it was avowed and applauded by Lord North, in Parliament, as highly commendable.

"Men who wished to cavil at Lord Harcourt's administration made another objection. It was said that his Excellency should, for the defence of Ireland, have forced the introduction of foreigners.

To this it was answered, and the event has justified the part adopted by Lord Harcourt, that, with attention and management, Ireland might well spare 4,000 men, and still be preserved in peace. Moreover, that if the expence of 4,000 foreigners could be spared to Great Britain, it would be wantonness to create such a charge. If, indeed, we may reason from the conduct of the last foreign troops that were introduced into this kingdom by King William, his Excellency had more to apprehend from the prejudices of the country against them, and from the mischiefs likely to happen to them here, than from all the risings of White Boys or Steel Boys at home, or from the terrors of invasion from abroad. Another difficulty was made. The Attorney-General here, whose duty it is to prepare money bills, had inserted an enacting clause, '*That it should be lawful* for his Majesty to send out of this Kingdom to America 4,000 men.'

* * * * * *

"His Majesty's law servants in England, however, were of opinion that the King was only *personally* bound to keep 12,000 men in this Kingdom, and that the record of his royal determination to do so made it highly indecorous to violate his word, but that it was not a violation of law. Many men, high in reputation, on this side, argued first that the distinction was a reflection on Majesty, and then boldly asserted that it was against law to remove any part of the 12,000 men without an act of parliament; on the grounds that the keeping 12,000 men within the Kingdom was the express consideration for raising and paying them. The Irish bill, however, was altered in Great Britain; this was considered as an ungracious and disrespectful treatment of the Irish parliament. It was in fact a repetition of what had been done in the former session, viz^{t}., the alteration of a money bill in several material parts, a proceeding which had been highly resented. His Excellency, nevertheless, had the good fortune and address to procure the adoption of the alterations.

"The bill was sent back to Great Britain, and, returning a second time from thence, it passed into a law. Thus 4,000 men were furnished for the American service, at a time when almost every man in the North was, in his heart, an American, as was stated and complained of in the House of Lords here, by Lord Hillsborough; and when nine-tenths of the people in the South were Papists and White Boys, in hourly expectation of assistance from France or Spain.

"A last scruple was put forward, namely, whether an act of parliament providing for 12,000 men, and passed subsequently to resolutions of both Houses to part with 4,000 men, did not revoke those resolutions. To meet this a declaratory act was

passed, re-instating those resolutions; asserting the power of the Crown; securing the assistance of the 4,000 men to Great Britain; and removing the suspicions, as well as quieting the jealousies, of the Irish House of Commons.

CHAPTER VI.

MATTERS OF POLICE, IN GENERAL.

"*January*, 1776.

"His Excellency was ever watchful to preserve the country in peace and quietness, and to remove apprehension either as to the danger of domestic risings, or the possibility of foreign invasion. In this view he took occasion, from an accidental outrage upon an individual in Munster, to direct a special commission to be instituted. This was attended by his Majesty's ablest council, and conducted with great solemnity and care. The awful and dignified manner in which justice was calmly and resolutely administered by the execution of the ruffians found guilty of the murders, struck such a universal terror as has left this country for the first time these sixteen years in perfect tranquillity to this hour. Thus it was that when a general return was ordered by his Excellency of all the prisoners confined for crimes throughout the Kingdom, and of the general state of the

gaols; the number of malefactors appeared so inconsiderable, that it was admitted by the Chancellor that he had known more persons tried at one assize in England than all the prisons in Ireland contained.

"The force spared for America left the Kingdom with not more than 5,000 men fit for service. Knowing, however, that the resources of the country were amply sufficient for its necessities in this respect, and finding a number of scattered and useless invalids, his Excellency recommended to his Majesty that these should be formed into ten companies, to consist of 100 men each, and should be officered from the half-pay lists. This at once not only made the expence of foreign aid unnecessary, but avoided the cost of maintaining the invalids, by applying them to the domestic purposes for which he conceived them to be adequate.

"His Excellency put arms into the hands of these invalid companies, and, for some time, permitted the Protestants in different parts of the Kingdom to serve upon several occasions, in the form of militia. This, at that time, was actually necessary to rid the country of White Boys; and an expectation of a militia law being passed tempted the gentry of the Kingdom to anticipate at their own expence the execution of such a law. As soon, however, as it appeared to Lord Harcourt that it was not his Majesty's pleasure to

have a militia arrayed here, and that the country through every part of it had been restored to profound quiet, the assembling of any bodies of men was forbidden, and the practice instantly died away with the necessity that produced it.

"Lord Harcourt, being of an active disposition and using much exercise, constantly visited his acquaintance, without pomp or parade, and of course saw the undisguised situation of every class of people in the metropolis.

"It occurred to his Excellency that cleanliness, industry, and health, are closely connected to each other, from the example of the very reverse which was daily presented before his eyes. He, therefore, gave every encouragement to persons whom he found most capable of improving the capital, and in the course of a very few years he has seen Dublin, from being one of the filthiest and most uncomfortable as well as one of the most unhealthy cities in Europe, make hasty strides towards becoming the most beautiful capital in his Majesty's dominions.

"Lord Harcourt's experience in life, and his knowledge of this Kingdom, had convinced him that to make a people happy and flourishing, it was essential that the necessaries of life should be cheap and plentiful. His policy, therefore, was to encourage as much as possible the tillage and the fisheries of the Kingdom, without material

injury to the King's revenue. His Excellency has been fortunate enough this year, to see a country, which within ten or fifteen years past paid half a million for corn and flour imported for its support, not only live in the utmost plenty, but even export large quantities of corn.

"The Lord Lieutenant found the upper classes of people in this Kingdom addicted to drunkenness and gaming, and it is no less certain than extraordinary that his example has had such an influence in checking those favorite passions, that he has corrected the one and reprobated the other.

"The situation of the common beggar did not escape his vigilance and humanity, for under his administration a code of poor laws has been enacted, upon a plan admitted to be in many respects preferable to that of Great Britain.

CONCLUSION.

"In a period of universal turbulence and faction, Lord Harcourt has preserved the Kingdom entrusted to his care in profound peace. He has imposed new taxes, and has secured the collection of those already granted. He has filled an empty treasury; restored public credit; enriched the nation; furnished a third of its force to support Great Britain in America; strengthened the

hands of government; and stopped several ruinous and profligate practices which squandered the public revenue. He has called a new parliament; vindicated and upheld the property and the prerogative of the Crown; and has obtained no favour that by any possibility can clash with the interests of Britain, considered as separate from Ireland.

"He has established a confidence and good will between the two countries as connected parts of a great Empire, mutually interested in assisting each other, which never subsisted to so great a degree before. He has left such a general good disposition, and such a number of supporters of government, as, with the present scale of patronage, and the present highly improved state of the revenue, must make the administration of his successor as advantageous to the Crown, and as easy to himself, as it has been difficult and honorable to the Nobleman who is now laying down the reins of government in this Kingdom."

Memorial by Mr. Lees.

THE following further short memorial by Mr. Lees elucidates the matter of Lord Harcourt's relations to his Commander-in-chief, as seen through the spectacles of the Castle office. It is very possible that, if the Chief Secretary had been a civilian, many of the difficulties both in this case and in that of the embarkation of the 4,000 men might not have occurred. Much as Lord Harcourt was indebted to the energy and sharpness of his Secretary, and honourably as he always stood by him, there can be little doubt that personal considerations frequently marred his usefulness and involved the Lord Lieutenant in awkward difficulties.

"An event which took place upon the close of the first session of Lord Harcourt's administration, in May, 1774, the consequences of which have been connected with the close of that administration, deserves to be taken notice of, and, for clear-

ness, kept distinct from the civil business of parliament, or the country.

"In Lord Townshend's administration, and for some time before, from the death of Lord Rothes there had been no Commander in chief appointed in this Kingdom, other than as the Lord Lieutenant, by the King's patent to him, may, as Captain General of the Forces, be considered as such. The eldest Lieut.-General did the duty of Commander in chief under Lord Townshend, under whose administration the staff was, upon the augmentation, reduced from 11 Majors General to 5, and still further reformed under Lord Harcourt to 3; two of these were, by the King's command, to reside with the Commander in chief in Dublin, and one constantly at Cork; which, from the frequent embarkations there, as well as for the protection of the inhabitants against invasion or tumult, it was judged absolutely necessary to defend by the constant presence of an officer of that rank.

"General Elliot, an officer of reputation and experience, was appointed Commander in chief. The General from an active disposition, and from that spirit of innovation which is apt to actuate men of military genius and enterprize, determined to disencumber his proceedings, including his communications with the Chief Governour and his conduct of the military department, from the ancient

established forms of office; and indeed, from any connection with the office of the Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant. With these views he rather precipitately plunged himself into a contest of ceremony and etiquette; and, finding a determined resolution on the part of the Lord Lieutenant not to submit to innovation, nor to dispense with the ancient and necessary modes of conducting business, the Commander in chief requested leave to resign.

"If one considers that the order upon which he grounded his resignation, was in the following words:—

"'Whereas it hath been the practice for a great number of years past to signify many orders of his Majesty's Government, in this Kingdom, to the Commander in chief by letters from the Chief Secretary for the time being, specifying particularly therein that such orders are so signified by command of the Government; and it being absolutely necessary, not only for the convenience and ease of the Government for the time being, but for the more ready despatch of military business, (which, of late years, is greatly encreased), that this practice should in many cases be continued; We do hereby signify to you that it is our intention, *in such cases as we shall judge to be proper*, to cause our orders to be signified to you, in our name by letters to you from our Chief Sec-

retary for the time being; which orders you are to consider and observe in like manner as you would do if the same were signified to you under our own signature. Given, &c.'

"When it is also considered that there subsisted the greatest harmony between the Lord Lieutenant and General Elliot in everything personal; and that Lord Rothes had, even towards Lords Justices, followed the course of business objected to by General Elliot towards a resident Lord Lieutenant; it should seem as if somewhat farther was intended to be desired on the part of the Commander in chief, and which he despaired of succeeding in, from this obstructive conduct in the commencement of his command;—or else, that he, from constitution, was averse to the detail of ceremonials in office; or again, that he had in contemplation some more favorite object. But certain it is that the matter in difference appears not in itself of magnitude sufficient to have provoked him to resign; especially as the adhering to ancient forms and official practice is essential to be religiously observed on the part of Government.

"Upon General Elliot's departure, General Irwine was appointed to succeed him, upon whose arrival in Ireland his Excellency, with that politeness which distinguishes him above most men, and with a degree of affectionate attention towards the General, paid him every mark of regard, accommodated him with his own apartments at the Castle, and endeavoured by every possible means to contribute to his honour and his happiness. In the course of a few months the difficulties which were supposed to have died with General Elliot's departure and the King's approbation of his Excellency's conduct thereupon, were not only revived, but spread much wider.

"His Excellency was, indirectly, given to understand that the Commander in chief was a substantive character, sent hither with most extensive powers, and that not only the total direction of the military business was to be entrusted to him, but, as reported, even the patronage of the army was to follow his recommendation, not through the Lord Lieutenant but directly from the King.

"His Excellency looked into his patent; looked into the records of office; looked back into his own conduct; looked up to his Sovereign. Nothing could be found in these researches to authenticate the report, or warrant the suspicion, and yet circumstances gradually made their appearances which lessened the improbability of some of those rumours. Some of his Excellency's military recommendations to his Majesty were either retarded, or their success slackened, or the event of them was known publickly before the Lord Lieutenant had any account of the matter.

"A separate correspondence appeared to exist somewhere, and the Commander in chief stept forward . . . . in the Senate House, and delivered opinions in the House so strong that they were quoted by some of the members in debate. This conduct appeared, hourly, more explicit, and the principles, or assurances of support which suggested it, were no longer very mysterious or equivocal. His Excellency, long in the habits of business, and early acquainted with courts and with mankind, had as observant an eye, and as quick an apprehension at least as any man who surrounded him in the circle. But being of a cool determined mind, and decided as to his own conduct, he was always the last to find out what, when discovered, he knew must be painful or unpleasant.

"He saw no slight in the neglect of his correspondence; no offence in the roughest expressions of a dry despatch; no injury or insult intended him in frivolous objections made to many of his measures in parliament, nor in captious complaints, founded neither in argument nor fact. The slight was overlooked; the offence not taken; the injury endeavoured to be avoided; the objections answered; the complaints refuted by stating the journals.

"He had seen with regret in the history of this country, that the acts of the honestest and

ablest of men that ever governed this Kingdom, had, from misrepresentation and intrigue, made it necessary for them to return to the King's presence, and frequently surrender their trust, in order to vindicate their conduct and character. In the following official orders, transmitted to him by the Secretary of State in March, 1776, the application of this doctrine was brought home to himself. Persons reasoned and commented upon the orders as soon as they were promulged and registered in the Secretary's office; and no reticence was observed respecting them. They were as follows,—

"'1. All opinions and recommendations of the Commander in chief, whether approved or not, to be transmitted to the King.'

"'2. In the appointment to new or vacant commissions, the Lord Lieutenant will frequently shew attention to the recommendations of the Commander in chief.'

"'3. The Commander in chief to have full communication of all letters on military business which the Lord Lieutenant shall receive from his Majesty's Secretary of State.'

"'4. The Commander in chief, tho' resident in England, shall not be deemed to exceed the bounds of his Commission by transmitting the memorials of officers to the Lord Lieutenant, which he shall receive in this country.'

"Men adverse to administration, and wishing to humiliate his Excellency and the King's Government, loudly and publicly declared that the 1st of these orders appeared to carry two inferences, equally mortifying and humiliating, viz. That the Lord Lieutenant had improperly disapproved, and that the Commander in chief's recommendation was to take the place of his Excellency's; otherwise, to what purpose transmit what, in his Excellency's opinion, ought not to be transmitted?

"That in the 2nd order the Lord Lieutenant's past discretion is impliedly censured, and his future discretion taken totally away, else, why command him frequently to approve, contrary to his judgment? or, the command is needless.

"That in the 3rd the Commander in chief is introduced into a full participation of the Lord Lieutenant's government, for instead of the former method of conveying military information by extract or copy, and seeming to make the intelligence come from the Lord Lieutenant, the whole letter is to be thrown open, which may contain variety of matter, perhaps improper for any second person, for the secrecy of which the Lord Lieutenant is responsible; and, possibly, censure or reprehension of his own conduct.

"And that by the 4th the most inconvenient and degrading practice is prescribed to the Lord

Lieutenant, apparently calculated to annoy his Excellency, and to accommodate the situation of the present Commander in chief; else, why send a memorial to Great Britain to be sent back to Ireland, for the purpose of being laid before the Lord Lieutenant, constantly residing in Ireland, when the same memorial may, as the practice had been, be, in the first instance, laid before the Chief Governor by the senior officer upon the staff, acting under this government, as Commander in chief for the time being?

"Those who were more moderate and well affected—many, perhaps, of his Excellency's friends—were obliged to admit that the effect of these orders, whatever might have been the intention, was, impliedly, to censure his Excellency's past conduct in military matters, to abridge his office of a considerable part of its essential rights; and moreover that they invested a person, however able and respectable, yet certainly of inferior station, with powers that made him the Lord Lieutenant's superior and controuler; and gave him such advantages in point of residence and irresponsibility, and such temptations to dominate, as must render the Chief Governor subordinate to the Commander in chief; lower and lessen him in dignity and consequence, and render his government impracticable and disgraceful.

"His Excellency read the orders with equal

concern and surprise, but whilst he determined to resign, he resolved to submit.

"If he felt those orders an infringement upon his office, and a derogation to his station, he concluded that resigning that office and that station would discharge his duty and acquit his honour. But sensible that, at all events, the King's affairs required his attendance in this country, and sacrificing every consideration to his personal attachment, he obeyed his Prince, and postponed the period of his return."

Appendix.

IT now remains to commit to an Appendix a List of the Members of the Irish Chambers of Lords and Commons, with a singular account of favours asked for, favours conferred, and remarks upon the characteristics of the several Members.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

"This list consists of all those persons who ever come to Ireland; there are many of them who seldom or never attend the House.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Lord Primate, Archbishop of Armagh	Preferment in the Church.
Lord Chancellor . .	. . . . .
Archbishop of Dublin .	Preferment in the Church.
Archbishop of Cashell .	Preferment in the Church.
Archbishop of Tuam .	Preferment in the Church.
Duke of Leinster . .	A Marquess, a Duke in Ireland, an English Viscount, Master of the Ordnance, a Lord Justice, a Privy Councillor.
Earls :—	
Antrim	Gov[r] of the county of Antrim, a trustee of the Linen Board, a Privy Councillor.
Westmeath . . .	Gov[r] of the county of Westmeath, a Privy Councillor, a pension for his Brother.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Bishoprick for his friend Dean Cope.	Constant attender.
Lord Chancellor, a good living for his Chaplain, M[r]. Bowden, a cornetcy to his son, an addition to his salary of £1,000, and an ensigncy.	
Archbishop of Dublin.	A constant attender and a speaker.
. . . . .	Never comes to parliament.
. . . . .	Abroad for his health these three years.
. . . . .	Has not attended parliament these 4 years, and asks to be a Marquess.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Meath	A pension, Governor of the county of Dublin and Wicklow.
Donegall . . .	A Privy Councillor . .
Cavan.	
Inchiquin . . .	A P. Councillor . .
Drogheda . . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. B[d], a Reg[t], a government, &c. Governor of the county of Meath and the King's county.
Granard . . .	. . . . .
Tyrone . . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, Govern[r] of the county of Waterford.

Favor's received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Very old and infirm, never attends, his pension taken from him.
Created a Constable of Carrickfergus. To serve his Lordship in elections, gave his friend M[r]. Price the Surveyorship of Carrickfergus. A trustee of the Linen Board.	Lives chiefly in England, but makes all his friends here oppose Government.
Linen Board . . .	Seldom attends.
Master of the Ordnance, a Gen[l] on the staff, and Constable of Maryborough, and asks to be a Marquess.	
A Privy Council[r], and Governor of the county Longford.	Seldom attends, is selling his Boroughs, and is not in humour.
His brother John a Com[r] of the Revenue, his brother William a good living, and asks to be a Marquess.	

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Carrick . . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, an Earl.
Hillsborough . .	A P. Councillor, a trustee of the L. Board, an Earl, and Govern^{r} of the county Down.
Shannon . . .	A pension of £3,000 p^{r} ann. for 31 years, a P. Coun^{r}, a trustee of the L. B^{d}, Gov^{r} of the county Cork.
Lanesborough . .	A Privy Counc^{r}, a trustee of the Linen Board, Com-m^{r} of the Revenue, Gov^{r} of county of Cavan.
Clanbrassil . . .	A Privy Coun^{r}, a trustee of the Linen Board, Chief Remembrancer.
Belvedere . . .	A Privy Counc^{r}, a trustee of the Linen Board, a peer, and Muster Master General.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A pension of £1,000 p^{r} ann., a company for his second son, and a living to M^{r}. Hewetson.	
His friend Dean Dickson made Dean of Down, M^{r}. W^{m}. Montgomery a Com^{r} of Excise, and a living for M^{r}. Dunbar's friend.	
Made his friend Surveyor of Dundalk.	Seldom attends, brings M^{r}. Waller and M^{r}. Shiel into parliament.
Made his son a Lieut. Col. of Foot.	Seldom attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls:—	
Wandesford	An Earl
Lowth	An Earl and Privy Counc^{r}.
Mornington	An Earl
Moira	A Peer, a trustee of the Linen Board.
Arran	A Privy Counc^{r}, a trustee of the L. Board, a Peer, Gov. of the counties of Wexford and Mayo.
Courtown	
Miltown	A Peer
Farnham	A Privy Counc^{r}, a trustee of the Linen B^{d}, a Viscount and Earl.
Charlemont	An Earl, and Governor of county Armagh.
Bective	An Earl.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
	Wanted to be a Privy Counc^{r}, and out of humour.
	Wanted to be Constable of Birmingham Tower, and since in strong opposition.
	Wanted a living for his Tutor, and much offended, brings two members into parliament.
A Deanery for his friend, and living for his son, Lord Sudley, a Privy Counc^{r}, and his other son a Comm^{r} of Customs.	Infirm and speechless, cannot attend.
His brother an Aide-de-Camp.	Seldom attends.
A Privy Counc^{r}.	Constant attender.
Leave to sell his place for £7,000.	Seldom attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Howth . . .	An Earl . . . . .
Bellamont . .	An Earl . . . . .
Kingston . . .	A Peer, Baron, and Viscount, Governor of the c°. of Sligo.
Roden	A trustee of the Linen B[d] Auditor Gen[l], searcher of Galway.
Ely	Governor of the county of Wexford.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Privy Counc[r], and recommended for a pension of £500 a year, but not granted.	A constant attender.
Trustee of the Linen B[d]., and a strong recommendation for an advancem[t] in the army.	
An Earl, and his brother a Privy Counc[r], a living to his friend.	Seldom attends.
An Earl, and joined his son in his place of Auditor General.	A constant attender.
An Earl, a Privy Councillor, several places in the Revenue, livings for his friends, M[r]. Tottenham a Com[r] of Customs, M[r]. Loftus a Com[r] of Acc[ts], pensions to Lady Ely's relations £300 a y[r], M[r]. M[c]Lean Sec[y] to the B[d] of Acc[ts] £300, M[r]. Hellen Council to the Excise, a cornetcy to M[r]. Loftus's son.	A constant attender.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Earls :—	
Altamont . . .	A Baron in 1761, and Governor of the county of Mayo.
Ross	A Baron in 1763, and Governor of Donegal county.
Viscounts :—	
Mountgarret.	
Valentia.	
Netterville.	
Strangford . . .	A pension for his daughters, good Church preferment for himself.
Ranelagh . . .	A pension . . .
FitzWilliam . . .	. . . . .
Molesworth . . .	Pensions for his sisters .
Boyne	A pension of £300 .
Powerscourt . . .	. . . . .
Mountmorres . .	. . . . .
Mountcashell . .	. . . . .
Dungannon.	
Glerawly . . .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Viscount and Earl, a cornetcy to his grandson, Surveyor Gen[l] to his son George, a pension £500 and a collection to his son John £270.	A steady attender.
A Viscount and Earl .	A steady friend.
An Ensigncy for his son, leave to exchange his Livings.	
. . . . .	Constant attender.
. . . . .	Never attends.
. . . . .	Connected by marriage with M[r]. Ponsonby's family.
. . . . .	Constant attender.
. . . . .	Wanted to be an Earl.
. . . . .	Related to M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	Nephew to M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	Connected with Lord Tyrone.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Viscounts :—	
ClanWilliam . .	A Peer, 1766 . . .
Clare	A Peerage, 1766 . .
Crosbie . . .	A Privy Counc^{r}, a trustee of the Linen Board.
Bishops :—	
Meath	Preferment in the Church .
Kildare . . .	Do. . . . .
Cork	Do. . . . .
Waterford . . .	Do. . . . .
Clogher . . .	Do. . . . .
Limerick . . .	Do. . . . .
Kilmore . . .	Do. . . . .
Elphin	Preferment . . .
Killala	Do. . . . .
Raphoe . . .	Do.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Made his Brother-in-law, Bourke, first a Dean, and then a Bishop. Several small favours, a trustee of the Linen Board.	Connected a good deal with Sir H. Cavendish.
A Viscount, a Deanery to his brother, his cousin a King's Serjeant.	A constant attender, has a very considerable interest in Kerry.
. . . . .	Brother to Lord Farnham and Barry Maxwell, the Bp. seldom or never attends.
. . . . .	Constant attender.
Made Bishop of Cork .	Has scarce taken his seat.
. . . . .	Constant attender.
. . . . .	Offered him higher preferment.
Made Bishop of Limerick by translation.	Constant attender.
Made Bp. of Kilmore by translation.	Constant attender.
Made Bishop of Elphin by translation.	Constant attender.
. . . . .	Never attends.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Bishops :—	
Clonfert . . .	. . . . .
Ossory	Preferment . . .
Leighlin and Ferns .	. . . . .
Down and Connor .	Do. . . . .
Dromore . . .	Do. . . . .
Derry	Do. . . . .
Cloyne	. . . . .
Killaloe . . .	. . . . .
Barons :—	
Kinsale . . .	. . . . .
Blayney . . .	A regiment, a Gen[l] on the Staff, Gov[r] of the c[o] of Monaghan.
Southwell . . .	Constable of Limerick, a trustee of the Linen B[d], Gov[r] of the c[o] of Limerick.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Made Bishop of Clonfert.	
. . . . .	A friend to government, seldom attends.
Made a Bishop, the son of Com[r] Bourke.	Has not taken his seat.
. . . . .	Never attends.
. . . . .	Constant attender.
Bishop of Derry by translation, an ensigncy for M[r]. Lawless.	Abroad for his health these 4 years past.
Made Bishop of Cloyne .	Constant attender, and will make a good speaker.
Made Bishop of Killaloe .	Has never taken his seat since his appointment ten months ago.
A Pension of £400 a year.	A constant attender.
Trustee of the Linen B[d], an Ensigncy and Q[r]-Master's Commission for his friend.	
Leave for his son to purchase a troop of Dragoons.	Constant attender.

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Barons :—	
Desart	. . . . .
Knapton.	
Longford . . .	A Cap[t] in the navy . .
Lisle	A Peer in 1758 . .
Mount-Florence . .	. . . . .
Baltinglass . . .	A trustee of the Linen B[d], a Peer in 1763.
St. George . . .	A Peer in 1763.
Annaly	Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and a Peer in 1766.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Wanted advancement in the army, which I endeavoured, but was disappointed, wanted a pension for M[rs]. Herbert.	Not in good humour, and connected with Tyrone.
. . . . .	Constant in opposition, connected with M[r]. Rowley, a tolerable speaker, and good humoured.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon.
. . . . .	Has 2 seats which he sells, done one little favour for him, and wants more.
Leave to his son to purchase a company.	Wants to be an Earl, and his son Church preferm[t], disappointed and strong in opposition.
His brother Examinator of Customs, a Judge to his friend, a Barrack-Master for M[r]. Wilson, Deanery for Dean Trench, livings for his friends, £500 addition to his office.	

Titles.	Favors received in former Governments.
Barons:—	
Lifford	. . . . .
Sidney	. . . . .
Erne	A trustee of the Linen B^{d} .
Eyre	. . . . .
Irnham. . . .	. . . . .
Clermont . . .	Post Mast Gen^{l}, a Privy Counc^{r}, and trustee of the Linen Board.
Dartry	. . . . .
Dawson . . .	A trustee of the Linen Board.
Bangor	A trustee of the Linen Board.
Milbourne . . .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Lord Chancellor, and a Peer in 1767.	
A Peer in 1768.	
A Peer, his son a place, 1768.	
A Peer in 1768.	
A Peer in 1768.	
A Peer in 1760, several favors in the revenue.	
A Peer in 1770.	
A Peer in 1770.	
A Peer in 1770.	
A Peer in 1770.	

HOUSE OF

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors recd in former Governments.
Antrim co. .	Lord Dunluce, son of the Earl of Antrim.	His father governor of county Antrim.
,, .	Lord Beauchamp, son of the Earl of Hertford.	His brother Henry Constable of Dublin Castle and Clerk of the Crown in the King's Bench, in reversion.
Antrim bo. .	Wm J. Skeffington, brother to Lord Massareene.	. . . .
,, .	Hugh Skeffington, uncle to Lord Massareene.	A troop of Horse.
Belfast . .	HenrySkeffington, brother to Lord Massareene.	. . . .
,, . .	Geo. Hamilton, brought into parliament by Lord Donegall.	. . . .

COMMONS.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave his Tutor, Mr. Winder, the collection of Corke Excise, £300 a year.	
A company of Foot after two years' service.	
A pension of £200 pr annum to his Sister-in-law.	Not to be depended on, being a bad attender.
. . . . £200 allowance for his Light Horse at Balbriggan.	These two gentlemen are Lord Donegall's members, and always in opposition, which Lord has received several favors, from Ld Townshend—vide list, House of Lords.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Lisburne .	Francis Price, nephew to L[d] Hertford.	Was Collector of Strangford and had leave to sell it.
,, .	Robert Sey Conway, son to Earl of Hertford.	. . . .
Randalstown .	John O'Neill.	
,, .	John O'Neill.	
Armagh co. .	W[m] Brownlow .	A Privy Councillor.
,, .	Sir Archibald Atcheson.	. . . .
Armagh bo. .	Sir George Macartney.	. . . .
,, .	Charles O'Hara .	Ranger of the Curragh, and a pension of £200 p[r] ann. for 31 years which he sold.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Has not attended all this session and yet asks to be a com[r] of the Revenue.
Leave to purchase a troop of Dragoons over the officers of the regiment, and now wants to purchase a majority.	
. . . . .	Connected with the Duke of Leinster.
Privy Councillor, and recommended for a Peerage	A steady friend to government.
Sec. to the Lord Lieut., two com[d] for a friend, and a place for an old servant, Trustee of the L. Board, and a pension of £1,500, with a living of £600 to Dean Marley, with many places in the Revenue.	
A Com[r] of Accounts and £500 a y[r], and wants an additional salary of £300 a y[r].	Attends constantly.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Charlemount .	Francis Caulfield, brother to L[d] Charlemont.	His brother made an Earl in 1763.
,, .	Sir Annesley Stewart.	. . . .
Carrickfergus co. and town.	John Chichester, brother to Lord Donegall.	. . . .
,,	Conway Rich[d] Dobbs, son to the late Gov[r] of North Carolina.	. . . .
Carlow co. .	Beauch. Bagnel .	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Burton, son to the late Benj[n] Burton, a Com[r] of the Revenue and nephew to M[r]. Ponsonby.	
Carlow bo. .	Edward Hoare .	. . . .
,, .	James Somerville, a wine merchant.	

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave him a cornetcy which was vacant, by the death of a relation, during its passage thro' the Office.	Never gave a vote to Gov[t] since. In partnership with Sir Geo. Colebrooke.
. . . . .	Never has attended.
. . . . .	Connected with L[d] Hertford, set down as one of his friends, and always against Gov[t].
Recommended his friend Major Pigot for purchase of a majority of Dragoons.	M[r]. Bagnel promised to support and never attended afterwards.
Leave to purchase a troop of Dragoons.	A follower of M[r]. Ponsonby's.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Old Leighlin .	Sir Fitzroy Almer	. . . .
,, .	Thomas Monck .	. . . .
Cavan co. .	Barry Barry, brother to Lord Farnham.	Prothonotary to the Court of Common Pleas for life.
,, .	Geo. Montgomery, son-in-law of M[r]. Clements.	. . . .
Belturbet bo. .	John Cramer, cousin of Lord Lanesborough.	. . . .
,, .	Robert Birch, merchant.	. . . .
Cavan bo. .	Tho[s] Nesbitt .	A cornetcy and a company of foot, now on half-pay.
,, .	Theop. Clements, son of M[r]. Nath. Clements.	. . . .
Clare co. .	Sir Lucius O'Brien	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Connected with the Duke of Leinster.
Brother to M[r]. Monck Mason, procured the place of agent to Archbishop of Dublin, worth £400 a year. Dead.	
Gave Lord Farnham, his brother, leave to sell Birmingham Tower, £7,000 at least in his pocket.	This gentleman, on being refused to have his son's life put into his Patent, has ever since opposed violently.
A Barrack Master's place for a friend.	On some few questions he voted with Gov[t], but is generally against.
. . . . .	Lord Lanesborough's connection.
Leave to his brother-in-law to resign his place to his nephew.	
A pension of £300 to his father.	
Asked for the agency to the Reg[ts] abroad, was granted.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Clare co. .	Fran. Pierrep[t] Burton, son-in-law of M[r]. Clements.	. . . .
Ennis bo. .	Cha[s] M[c]Donnell .	. . . .
,, .	Crofton Vandeleur.	. . . .
Corke co. .	R[d] Townshend.	
,, .	John Hyde, married a niece of M[r]. Ponsonby's.	
Baltimore bo. .	Sir John Freke, son-in-law to Lord Arran.	. . . .
,, .	Richard Tonsen .	Collector of Baltimore, which he had leave to sell.
Bandon Bridge town.	Francis Bernard .	. . . .
,,	Tho[s] Adderley .	Com[r] of the Barrack Board.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A pension of £600 a year to his wife, and a Quarter Master to M[r]. Finecanne.	Attended the session of 1769, but has been absent ever since.
. . . . .	Connected with Sir L. O'Brien.
Several small favors, and gave his friend, Capt. Blakeney, an employment of £500 a year.	A very shabby mean fellow, and never to. be depended on.
Made a Baronet . .	Asked two other favors, and never attended since.
. . . . .	Father to M[r]. Hull—vide M[r]. Hull—Tonsen too old to attend.
. . . . .	Always lives in England.
Exchanged for the Treasurership of that Board.	Belongs in fact to Lord Shannon, will probably find it very difficult to come in again for Bandon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Castlemartyr bo.	Sir J. Con. Colthurst.	Made a Bart. in 1744.
,,	Attiwell Wood .	. . . .
Charleville .	Hon. Ja[s] Lysaght, son to Lord Lisle.	. . . .
,, .	Robert Barry .	Seneschell of the King's manors and a Com[r] of Revenue Appeals.
Cloghnikilty .	Richard Longfield	. . . .
,, .	Riggs Falkiner .	. . . .
Corke city .	John H. Hutchinson.	A Privy Counc[r], Prime Serj[t], Alnager, Sec[y] of State in reversion, his 2[nd] son second remembrancer in reversion, his brother-in-law, M[r]. Nixon, comptroller of the Board of Works, worth £300 p[r] an.
,, .	W[m] B. Ponsonby, son to M[r]. Ponsonby.	

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon's friend and always against.
. . . . .	The same.
. . . . .	The same.
Trustee of the Linen Board.	Lord Shannon's friend.
. . . . .	Do.
£1,000 p[r] an. to his place of Alnager, his brother-in-law, M[r]. Duguerney, who has a pension of £200 p[r] an., made a Surveyor on the Quay of Dublin, worth £500 p[r] an., two ensigncies, &c., &c., and several small favors, Deanery to his son's tutor, and a recommendation to a Bishop for a living.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Doneraile bo.	S[t]. Leger S[t]. Leger.	. . . .
,, .	R[d] Aldworth, jun.	. . .
Kinsale town .	Agm. Vesey .	Accomptant General, worth £700.
,, .	James Kearney .	. . . .
Mallow town .	Denham Jephson.	. . . .
,, .	D. Jephson, jun[r].	. . . .
Middleton bo.	S[t]. John Jeffereys.	. . . .
,, .	Ed. Brodrick .	. . . .
Rathcormack bo.	A. Devonshire .	. . . .
,, .	James Barry .	. . . .
Youghall town.	James Dennis .	Second Serj[t] at Law.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon's friend, wants the Peerage of Doneraile.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon.
. . . . .	Wants to sell it, wants to be a Privy Counc[r] or to be a Com[r] of the Revenue.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
Lieut. Governor of Corke, on resignation of which a Com[r] of Acc[ts], £500, and a trustee of the Linen Board.	Unsteady.
. . . . .	Has sometimes assisted, and as often opposed, Lady Middleton's friend.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon, lawless, having bought the borough, wont come in again.
. . . . .	L[d] Shannon's friend, wont come in again.
. . . . .	L[d] Shannon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Youghall town.	Jos[ph] Lysaght, son of Lord Lisle.	Collector of Cork, £500.
Donegall co. .	Alex. Montgomery.	. . . .
„ .	John M[c]Causland.	
Ballyshannon bo.	Mich. Clarke .	Examinator of the Excise.
„	W[m] Gamble, cousin to the Provost.	. . . .
Donegall .	Lord Sudley, son of Lord Arran.	Trustee of the Linen Board.
„ .	Hon. R[d] Gore, his brother.	. . . .
Lifford . .	John Creighton, son of Lord Erne	. . . .
„ . .	Ab. Creighton, his brother.	Lieut. of foot on half pay.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	At first he opposed, but being threatened with the loss of his place, supports. All his family opposes.
. . . . .	Voted with Gov[t] in one question only to serve a particular point, but is a determined opponent.
Leave to exchange it without sale to his cousin.	M[r]. Conelly's steward, and attached to him.
Com[r] of the Barrack Board, and obtained the agency of the Archbishop of Dublin for his son, worth £400 a year.	
A Privy Counc[r], and the Deanery of Killaloe was given to M[r]. Brocas.	These gentlemen moved heaven and earth to get the latter made a Com[r] of the Revenue, and then voted against the division of the Boards and the Revenue Bill.
A Com[r] of Customs.	
Storekeeper of the Ordnance, £200 p[r] an.	Sons of Lord Erne—the one never attends, and the other always opposes.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
S[t]. John's Town bo.	W[m] Talbot, jun[r] .	. . . .
,, .	Hugh Howard, brother to the member for the c[o] of Wicklow.	. . . .
Down co. .	Roger Hall, cousin to Lord Hillsborough.	. . . .
,, .	Robert Stewart, son-in-law to Lord Hertford.	. . . .
Bangor bo. .	John Blackwood .	His father made a Bart. in 1763.
,, .	Nich[s] Ward, son of Lord Bangor.	. . . .
Downpatrick .	Math[w] Forde .	. . . .
,, .	Clotworthy Rowley.	. . . .
Hillsborough bo.	W[m] Montgomery .	. . . .
,, .	Cha[s] Powell Leslie, cousin of Lord Hillsborough.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A living for his nephew of £300.	Independent, but has been in general well inclined to Gov[t].
. . . . .	Supports Gov[t] with his brother, and is a useful man in Parl[t].
. . . . .	Duke of Leinster's friend and always against.
. . . . .	Always against.
. . . . .	Independent and always against.
His Father made a Peer .	More than half an idiot and requires watching.
. . . . .	Always against.
. . . . .	Inclined to be against on M[r]. Langford Rowley's acc[t], but wants a place.
A Com[r] of Excise, and a Quarter Master to his son.	Follower of Lord Hillsborough.
. . . . .	An uncommon good friend to Gov[t] and has asked nothing. Lord Hill's connection.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Killyleah .	Lord Ikerrin, son of L[d] Carrick.	. . . .
,, .	Arthur Johnston .	. . . .
Newry . .	W[m] Needham, nephew of Lord Chatham.	. . . .
,, . .	Robert Scott .	. . . .
Newtown bo. .	Tho[s] Le Hunt .	. . . .
,, .	Sir W. Ev. Morris	Bart. in 1758 .
Drogheda co. and town.	Francis Leigh .	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Meade.	
Dublin co. .	Lord Brabazon, son of L[d] Meath.	. . . .
,, .	Joseph Deane .	. . . .
Dublin city .	Lord Kildare, son of the Duke of Leinster.	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Clement, M.D.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
His father a pension of £1,000 p[r] an., and gave his brother a company, and a living to his friend.	
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby's friend.
. . . . .	Never attends.
A trustee of L. Board, and wants a place for himself and another for a friend.	
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby's friend.
. . . . .	Do.
A living for his relation, £300.	Connected with the Att[y] Gen[l].
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby's connection.
. . . . .	Attached to popularity and somewhat to M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	Duke of Leinster.
. . . . .	Always against, and an opponent to the Provost.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Dublin University.	Phil. Tisdall .	A Privy Counc[r], Att[y] Gen., Sec[y] of State, Judge of the Prerogative.
,, Newcastle bo. .	Sir C. Molyneux . . . . . Hon. J. Butler, uncle to Lord Lanesborough.	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Stewart . .	. . . .
Swords . .	John Hatch .	. . . .
,, . .	John Damer, cousin to L[d] Miltown.	. . . .
Fermanagh co.	Sir A. Brooke, brother-in-law to L[d] Clermont.	Made a Baronet in 1764.
,,	Mervyn Archdale	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Made his cousin, M[r]. B. Boyle, a Com[r] of the Revenue, gave a living to his friend, M[r]. Disney, and a cornetcy to his cousin, Tisdall, a seat at the Barrack to his brother, and several small livings.	
. . . . .	Wants to be a Privy Counc[r].
. . . . .	L[d] Lanesborough's, always against.
. . . . .	Do.
Leave to sell his place of Sec[y] to the Com[r] of the Revenue.	M[r]. Ponsonby.
Com[r] to the Revenue Appeals.	Steady to Governm[t].
A Privy Counc[r], and a majority of Dragoons to his brother.	Against Gov[t] in his heart, and connected with Tyrone and Fortescue, and acts as they do.
. . . . .	Lord Bellisle has some influence with him, but seeks popularity in his county.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Inniskillen bo.	R[d] Gorges, jun[r] .	. . . . .
,,	H. Hen. Mitchell	. . . . .
Galway co. .	Dennis Daly, nephew to the Earl of Ross and to M[r]. Malone.	. . . . .
,, .	W. Pon. K. Trench	. . . . .
Atheury town .	John Blakeney .	. . . . .
,, .	Theop. Blakeney .	. . . . .
Galway town .	Rob[t] French .	. . . . .
,, .	Anth[y] Daly .	. . . . .
Tuam bo. .	W[m] Hull . .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Wanted a place, and with L[d] Tyrone until he can get one.
Treasurer of the B[d] of Works, worth £800, and all his relations provided for, exch[d] for a seat at the B[d] with M[r]. Adderley.	
. . . . .	An independent and rising young man, M[r]. Malone has most influence with him.
. . . . .	Connected with M[r]. Ponsonby.
A pension of £200 p[r] an. and leave to sell his company.	This family brings in two members.
Made a Surveyor Gen[l], £500 a y[r].	
Trustee of the Linen Board.	An able and much respected member, independent and moderate.
. . . . .	Acts with Dennis Daly.
Lieu[t] Governor of Corke, 10s. a day.	Never to be relied on.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Tuam bo. .	Hugh Carleton .	. . . .
Kerry co. .	J. Blennerhasset .	A pension of £200 p[r] an.
,, .	Barry Denny .	. . . .
Ardfert bo. .	Launc[t] Crosbie .	. . . .
,, .	Maurice Coppinger.	. . . .
Dingle bo. .	M. Fitzgerald .	. . . .
,, .	Rob[t] Fitzgerald .	Judge of the Admiralty, Com[r] of the Revenue Appeals, and Comptroller of Dingle, with an additional salary of £400.
Tralee bo. .	Edward Denny, brother to the member for Kerry.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
King's Council. . .	Brought into Parl[t] by Lord Townshend, his father has a great interest in Corke; this gentleman is able in Parl[t] and a man of honor.
. . . . .	Old and never attends.
His brother a living, £900 p[r] an.	A very uncertain gentleman.
. . . . .	Lord Brandon.
Third Sergeant at Law.	Do.
Surveyor Gen[l] of Excise, £500.	Two seats in Parl[t].
A great living for his nephew, M[r]. Day, and an ensigncy to M[r]. J. Barrington, and another Church preferment for another nephew, and now recommended for an additional salary of £300 a y[r] to his seat at the B[d] of Appeals.	Brought into Parliament by his cousin, Maurice Fitzgerald, the Surveyor General.
His brother a living of £900 p[r] annum.	Not to be depended upon.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Tralee bo. .	Rich[d] Underwood	. . . .
Kildare co. .	Sir K. D. Borrowes	. . . .
,, .	Arthur Pomeroy .	. . . .
Athy bo.. .	W[m] Burgh . .	. . . .
,, . .	Walter Hussey .	. . . .
Harristown .	Gerald Fitzgerald	. . . .
,, .	Rob[t] Graydon .	. . . .
Kildare . .	Simon Digby .	. . . .
,, . .	Jos. Henry . .	. . . .
Naas . .	J. Bourke, sen[r] .	A Com[r] of Customs.
,, . .	J. Bourke, jun[r], his son.	Surveyor of the Stores, £300.
Kilkenny co. .	John Ponsonby, late speaker.	A Privy Councillor.
,, .	James Agar, nephew of M[r]. Ellis.	. . . .
Callen bo. .	Henry Flood .	. . . .
,, .	John Flood, jun[r] .	. . . .
Irishtown .	Lord F. Campbell	. . . .
,, .	Elland Mossom .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Providore to the Royal Hospital, gave him a small empl[t] for a friend.	Purchased his seat, in his heart inclined to M[r]. Beresford, he is harassed by Gen[l] Dilkes.
. . . . .	Duke of Leinster's friend.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Do.
His son a Deanery of £700 p[r] an., and since made a Bishop. A pension of £200 to his friend, M[r]. Ormsby.	Note this family has a fixed Borough.
Com[r] of Customs, Trustee of the Linen Board, and his brother a Bishop.	Has four seats, sells two, ought not to do it now he is provided for.
. . . . .	The engineer and mouth of the whole Opposition.
. . . . .	M[r]. Flood.
. . . . .	Never will attend.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Innistoge .	Jos. Matthews .	. . . .
,, .	Lodge Morris .	. . . .
Gowran .	Lieut. Col. Browne, son of Earl of Altamont.	. . . .
,, .	Henry Prittie .	. . . .
Kilkenny city.	Hayd. F. Morris .	. . . .
,, .	Sir J. Blunden .	A Baronet in 1766
Knocktopper .	Sir W[m] Fownes .	Searcher of Corke, worth £800 p[r] an. for life.
,, .	Herculus Langrishe.	Com[r] of the Barrack Board.
Thomas town .	Tho[s] Maunsell jun[r]	. . . .
,, .	Geo. Dunbar .	. . . .
King's co. .	Sir W[m] Parsons .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave him a collection, £300 a year.	
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
A cornetcy for his son, a Surveyor Generalship to one of his brothers, £500 a y[r] and a collection of £300 to another.	A most zealous friend to Government.
. . . . .	Related to Sir H. Cavendish, asks favors, but is very uncertain.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	Wants a favor, and keeps aloof.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
Supervisor of the Accounts of the Barracks.	From situation, with Gov[t], attached in his heart to M[r]. Ponsonby, but will act up to his professions.
. . . . .	Steady friend to Gov[t], wants to see his father on the Bench, they have great merit and deserve this favor.
A Pension of £300 p[r]. an.	Brought in by M[r]. Agar.
. . . . .	Dying—with M[r]. Ponsonby.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
King's co. .	John Loyd . .	. . . .
Banagher bo. .	Peter Holmes .	. . . .
,, .	Tho[s] Coghlan .	. . . .
Philipstown bo.	R[d] Roch[d] Mervyn, Lord Belvedere's son.	. . . .
,, .	Duke Tyrrell .	. . . .
Leitrim co. .	Nath. Clements .	Privy Counc[r], Deputy Vice-Treasurer, Ranger of the Phœnix Park, Searcher, Packer, and Guager of Dublin, Paymaster of the pensions.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Independent.
. . . . .	Sir H. Cavendish's friend, supported Gov[t]. well, wants the Barrack Board, is a very sensible man and fit for the office, and brings himself into Parl[t], is one of the first Lord Townshend w[d] have provided for.
A trustee of the Linen Board.	Affected he wanted nothing more; has asked for a place since with great impatience.
Lieut. Col. of foot, and wanted to be a Lieut. Col. of horse over Major Pope.	
. . . . .	Belongs entirely to Lord Belvedere, and wants a place.
Several small employments in the Revenue.	M[r]. Clements and his connections have certainly been very steady to Gov[t], and many very considerable favors have been asked for them during Lord T.'s administration.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Leitrim co. .	W[m] Gore . .	. . . .
Carrick bo. .	Henry Sandford .	Register of forfeitures.
„ .	Rob[t] Clements .	. . . .
James town .	Hon. Ja[s] Browne, son of the Earl of Altamont.	. . . .
„ .	John Fitz Gibbon	. . . .
Limerick co. .	Silver Oliver .	. . . .
„ .	Hugh Massey .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gave his friend, M[r]. Seely, a place of £100 a year in the Revenue.	Like the other Gores who are in Parl[t], very uncertain.
. . . . .	Brings himself into Parl[t], ill health and never attends.
Trustee of the Linen Board, and a Com[r] of Customs.	Follows his father, but is not easily satisfied.
. . . . .	An able man in Parl[t], very steady, and deserves advancement in his profession.
. . . . .	A gent. generally in opposition, and yet will ask great favors at the most critical time. Connected with Lord Tyrone on particular occasions, and for himself through the session at large.
A Privy Counc[r] . .	Asked a Bishoprick for his relation, but has kept at a distance, a very polite gentleman.
Recom[d] for a Peerage .	Wants a Reg[t] for his brother, and a Revenue employment for his son.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Askeyton bo. .	Jos. Hoare .	. . . . .
„ .	J. Tunnadine .	Master in Chancery.
Killmallock .	Windham Quin .	. . . . .
„ .	Tho[s] Maunsell .	. . . . .
Limerick city .	Charles Smyth .	. . . . .
„ .	Ed. Sex. Perry .	. . . . .
Londonderry co.	Tho[s] Conolly .	A Privy Counc[r], a Deanery of £800 p[r] an. to D[r]. Woodward, his friend, and several small favors.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
An ensigncy for M[r]. Vincent, and allowed his friend to sell a military app[t], which secured his borough, for which he promised, and gave, the most constant support.	
. . . . .	Wanted to be a Privy Counc[r], uncertain in his support.
King's Council . .	A very steady friend—*vide* his son Thomas.
. . . . .	Wanted a grant of the King's Island at Limerick, which L[d] T[d] procured for the purpose of a new barrack at Limerick. M[r]. Smyth has since generally opposed.
Privy Counc[r] and speaker, a Deanery for his brother. His brother-in-law, M[r]. Staples, a Com[r] of Customs, two Q[r]-Masters, a Deanery to M[r]. Marlay, and a Barrack Master.	*Vide* the event of the chair.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Londonderry co.	Edward Carey .	. . . .
Colerain bo. .	Rich[d] Jackson .	Clerk of the paper office, £200.
,, .	Theop. Jones .	A Privy Counc[r] and Collector of Dublin, worth £800 p[r] ann.
Londonderry city.	Francis Andrews.	Provost of the University and a Privy Counc[r].
,, .	Hugh Hill . .	Collector of Londonderry.
Newtown Limavady bo.	L[t] Col. William Burton.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Privy Counc[r] . .	In general for Government, in popular questions frequently against.
Second Secretary to the Lord Lieut., and an additional salary of £300 p[r] ann. to the paper office.	
. . . . .	A steady friend and a very worthy man.
Made his uncle Bp. of Limerick, gave a living to D[r]. Leland, his friend, two Barrack - master's places to his recommendation, £300 a y[r] living to M[r]. Andrews, Agency of the Archbp. of Dublin to his relation, and M[r]. Gamble to the Barrack Board, £400.	
His uncle, Lord Conynghame, a trustee of the L. Board, and a living to his friend, Nesbit, £400 a year.	Lord Conynghame.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Newtown Limavady bo.	Rich[d] Jones.	
Longford co. .	Henry Gore, brother of Lord Annaly.	. . . .
,, .	Rob[t] Pakenham, brother to Lord Longford.	
Granard bo. .	Ger. P. Bushe .	. . . .
,, .	Rich[d] Malone, nephew to M[r]. Malone.	. . . .
Lanesborough .	Matt. Esberry .	. . . .
,, .	Edw[d] B. Swann .	. . . .
Longford bo. .	Davis Latouche, jun[r].	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Examinator of Customs, worth £1,100.	Ill health and out of humour.
A Com[r] of Accounts, £500.	Once an ingenious speaker against Gov[t], now seldom opens his mouth.
. . . . .	A very decent man, goes with his uncle.
Gave him the Collection of Wicklow, £180 a year.	Connected with the Prime Serjeant, has supported steadily.
Clerk of the Land permits, and pensions for his sisters of £250 a year, and afterwards made a Surv[r] Gen. £500 a year, zealous in the cause of Government.	
A trustee of the Linen Board.	A very independent man, has frequently been with Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Longford bo. .	Warden Flood .	. . . .
Johnstown bo.	Cha[s] Newcomen .	. . . .
„ .	Ralph Featherstone.	. . . .
Lowth co. .	John Foster, son of the Lord Chief Baron.	. . . .
„ .	James Fortescue, b[r] of Lord Clermont.	Trustee of the L. Board.
Atherdee bo. .	John Ruxton .	His brother Surgeon Gen[l].
„ .	Geo. Lowther .	. . . .
Carlingford .	B. T. Balfour .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	A follower of the other Flood, with as much violence and less parts.
. . . . .	Supports or not, as Lord Annaly has a point to carry with Government.
A Surveyor Gen[l], £500 a year.	Brought into Parliament by Lord Granard, always very steady.
His brother a large living, and his relation, M[r]. Sibthorpe, made a Judge, and another living of £200 a year to his friend, D[r]. Morris.	He is a very rising young man in the Law and in Parliament, is generally with Gov[t], but being member for a county sometimes quits it on popular questions.
A Privy Counc[r], and wants the reversion of his brother's Peerage.	Has high expectations, and if not gratified is not likely to be with Governm[t]. The greatest jobber in Ireland.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	Always against Gov[t].
A Deanery to his friend .	With Gov[t] when he wants a point, with L[d] Tyrone when he has none to ask.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Carlingford .	Rob[t] Ross . .	. . . .
Dundalk .	Robert Waller .	. . . .
,, .	James Shiel .	A King's Council
Dunleer .	Dixie Coddington, nephew of Judge Tennison.	
,, .	Rob[t] Sibthorp .	. . . .
Mayo co. .	Sir C. Bingham .	. . . .
,, .	James Cuffe .	. . . .
Castlebarr bo..	John Knox . .	. . . .
,, .	Edw[d] Kirwan .	. . . .
Meath co. .	Her. L. Rowley .	His wife made a Viscountess.
,, .	Gorges Lowther .	. . . .
Athboy bo. .	Tho[s] Blighe, late Lieut. General.	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Tighe . .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Leave to sell his Lieut. Colonelcy.	M[r]. Ponsonby.
A Com[r] of Excise, of £1,000 a y[r]. / A Com[r] of Appeals.	Brought into Parliam[t] by L[d] Clanbrazil, steady with Gov[t].
Chairman of the Session of Kilmainham, related to L[d] Chief B. Foster.	Asks many favors and not steady.
. . . . .	Always against.
Barrack Board, £400 a year.	
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	A strange man.
. . . . .	Angry that his son was not made an Aide de Camp, a popular man, at present very adverse to Government.
. . . . .	Always against Government.
His brother made a Dean, and an ensigncy for M[r]. Fleming.	A very firm and steady supporter of Gov[t].
. . . . .	Son-in-law to Sir W. Fownes, and always against.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Duleek . .	Rich[d] Levinge .	. . . .
„ . .	Andrew Ram .	. . . .
Kells . .	Tho[s] Moore .	. . . .
„ . .	Tho[s] Pepper .	. . . .
Navan bo. .	Jos. Preston .	. . . .
„ .	John Preston .	. . . .
Ratoath . .	Sir M. L. Crofton	Made a Bar[t] in 1758.
„ . .	W[m] Irvine . .	. . . .
Trim . .	Tho[s] Fortescue, cousin of L[d] Clermont.	. . . .
„ . .	John Pomeroy .	Col. of the 64[th] foot.
Monaghan bo.	Col. Robert Cuninghame, brother-in-law to L[d] Clermont.	. . . .
„ .	Henry Westenra, brother-in-law to L[d] Clermont.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Always against Gov[t].
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Connected with M[r]. Rowly and Lord Bective.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby. Have a Borough of their own.
. . . . .	A very weavering man, and against when he can't get anything.
. . . . .	Married to M[r]. Lowther's daughter.
. . . . .	Connected with L[d] Mornington, who is against, but he seldom attends.
A majority to his friend, and a company to his recommendation.	In his heart with M[r]. Ponsonby, and gave me a very feint support afterwards.
Col. of the 58[th] foot, and Gov[r] of Kinsale, and a Q[r]-Master's commission for his friend.	Voted against the Division of the Revenue Board.
. . . . .	When L[d] Clermont got his Peerage he promised this gentleman should support Gov[t]; asked a place, and on being refused went into opposition.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Monaghan co.	Alex. Montgomery.	. . . .
,, .	Edw[d] Lucas .	. . . .
Queen's co. .	W[m] Pole, brother-in-law to L[d] Drogheda.	. . . .
,, .	John Dawson, son to L[d] Dawson.	. . . .
Ballynakill bo.	W[m] Montgomery.	Auditor of Imprests, and Barrack Master of Kinsale.
,, .	John Moore, cousin of Lord Drogheda.	. . . .
Maryborough .	Sir J. Parnell .	A Bar[t] in 1766 .
,, .	Hunt Walsh .	Col. of 56[th] foot .
Portarlington .	Roger Palmer .	Chamberlain of the Exchequer, £50.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Always against, L[d] Dartrey and L[d] Blayney has some influence with them.
. . . . .	Do.
. . . . .	Connected with L[d] Hertford and always against Government.
His father made a Peer.	Generally supports Gov[t].
Agent to Lord Townshend's Reg[t], and gave his son a cornetcy, also the Permit Office, £300, and recommended an add[l] salary of £378 a year.	Always supported Gov[t] steadily.
. . . . .	Lord Drogheda.
. . . . .	Connected with L[d] Drogheda, but always a gain Gov[t].
A Q[r]-Master's Com[n] for his friend, a living for his brother, and afterwards a Deanery of £700.	
Paymaster of the corn premiums.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Portarlington .	Sir Tho[s] Butler (dead)	. . . .
Roscomon co.	Tho[s] Mahon .	Trustee of the Linen Board.
,, .	John French .	. . . .
Boyle bo. .	R[t] Hon. Henry King, brother to L[d] Kingston.	. . . .
,, .	R[d] Fitzgerald .	Pension of £200 per ann.
Roscomon .	L[t] Col. Robert Sandford.	L[t] Col. on half pay, aid de camp to the L[d] Lieutenant.
,, .	Robert Tighe, M[r]. Clements' nephew.	Comptroller of Dublin.
Tulske . .	W[m] Caulfield .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A seat in Parliament, living of Kells to M[r]. Webb.	L[d] Dawson's borough, who brings in his own 2[nd] son.
A living for his son.	Related and connected with L[d] Crosby, M[r]. Mahon has been a very steady friend.
Made his uncle a Dean, an ensigncy for his nephew, and wants a pension for his nephew.	Connected with L[d] Annaly and L[d] Kingston, and not very steady.
A Privy Counc[r], and wants a place besides.	Wishes well, but latterly absent, as Lord Kingston is out of humour.
. . . . .	Wants to be a Privy Councillor, and to get it, opposed. A very proud impracticable man.
Gov[r] of Galway, and aid de camp on pay.	Wanted an addition to his Government, a steady attender.
. . . . .	Goes with M[r]. Clements, wants a place, is a very importunate man.
Gentleman of the Bedchamber, and Collector of Donogodee.	A very steady attender.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Tulske . .	Toby Caulfield (dead), and in his room a M[r]. Westley, an independent young man.	. . . .
Sligo co. .	Owen Wynne .	Privy Counc[r], and a trustee of the L. Board.
,, .	Jos. Cooper.	
Sligo bo. .	John Wynne .	Lieut. Col. of 2[nd] horse, and Lieu[t] Gov[r] of Corke.
,, .	W[m] Ormsby .	Collector of Sligo.
Tipperary co. .	S[r] Tho[s] Maude .	. . . .
,, .	Franc[s] Matthew .	. . . .
Cashell city .	R[d] Pennefather .	. . . .
,, .	W[m] Pennefather .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Lieutenancy of Dragoons, advanced in the army.	Always against Gov[t] since.
Gave at his request the Gov[t] of Corke to his brother, and promised always to support Gov[t], now wants a sinecure place for his son.	Generally with Gov[t], but often out of humour.
Governor of Corke.	Attends well for Gov[t], but never without some scheme.
A pension of £200 p[r] ann. to a friend.	Connected with the M[r]. Wynnes.
A Privy Counc[r], wants to be a Peer.	Has attended and supported well.
. . . . .	Sir Thomas's antagonist in Tipperary, always aga[st] Gov[t].
Pensions to his grandchildren and daughter-in-law, an ensigncy to his grandson. Leave to purchase a majority of Dragoons.	Have this borough, and steady friends to Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Clonmell bo. .	Hon. Col. Moore, b[r] to Lord Mount Cashell.	Collector of Corke Excise.
,, .	Guy Moore Coote	Pension of £200 p[r] ann.
Feathard .	Corn[s] O'Callaghan	. . . .
,, .	John Croker .	. . . .
Tyrone co. .	Ar. Low. Corry .	. . . .
,, .	James Stewart, nephew of Lord Kingston.	Captain of horse.
Augher bo. .	James Moutrey .	. . . .
,, .	Hon. Rob. Rochfort, son to L[d] Belvedere.	Surveyor Gen. of lands, £500 a year.
Clogher bo. or city.	Hon. W[m] Moore, b[r] of L[d] Mount Cashell.	Major of Dragoons.
,,	John Staples, b[r]-in-law of M[r]. Conolly.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Insane, and superanuated in the Revenue.
Additional pension of £200 p[r] ann. and wants an addition to that.	
. . . . .	A gentleman that requires great caution to talk with.
An ensigncy for his son .	Connected with Sir H. Cavendish, not very steady.
. . . . .	A north country gentle[n], and seeks popularity.
. . . . .	Connected with L[d] Kingston, and generally ag[st] Gov[t].
. . . . .	M[r]. Brownlow and Knox's connection.
. . . . .	Generally with us, as his father is, but absent sometimes when things are near.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
A Com[r] of Customs, £1,000 a year.	Very steady to Government.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Dungannon .	Tho[s] Knox . .	. . . . .
,, .	John Knox . .	Collector of Dublin Excise £700.
Strabane .	John Hamilton .	. . . . .
,, .	Claude Hamilton	. . . . .
Waterford co. .	John Beresford, b[r] to L[d] Tyrone.	. . . . .
,, .	Sir James May .	Collector of Waterford, and made a Baronet in 1763.
Dungarvan bo.	Sir W[m] Osborne .	. . . . .
,, .	Rob[t] Carew, son of Shepland Carew.	. . . . .
Lismore . .	Sir H. Cavendish.	Teller of the Exchequer, and made a Bart. in 1755.

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Connected with M[r]. Brownlow, and always agai[t] Gov[t].
. . . . .	L[d] Abercorn, but will not come in again, always against.
. . . . .	Always against.
Privy Counc[r], Com[r] of Customs, large living to his brother, and made Taster of Wines, with £1,000 a year in addition.	Discontented that the Revenue Board sh[d] be divided, and that his brother, who is under age, could not be made a Bishop.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby in his heart, but supports Gov[t].
A Privy Counc[r], and Com[r] of Excise.	
. . . . .	Always against.
Privy Councillor, and a hearth-money collec[n] to his friend.	A steady friend.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Lismore . .	James Gisborne .	A reg[t] of foot .
Tallagh . .	Nich[s] Lysaght .	. . . . .
„ . .	L[t] Col. H. Cane .	L[t] Col. of the Royal Irish Dragoons.
Waterford city.	Corn[s] Bolton .	. . . .
„ .	Shapland Carew .	. . . .
Westmeath co.	Lord Belfield, son to L[d] Belvidere.	
„ .	Anthony Malone.	Privy Counc[r] .
Athlone bo. .	Sir R[d] S[t] George .	Made a Bart. in 1766.
„ .	W[m] Handcock .	Collector of Trim, £300.
Fore bo.. .	John Armstrong .	. . . .
Kilbeggan .	Gustavus Lambert	Leave to sell his collection of Trim.
„ .	Cha[s] Lambert, his son.	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Gov[r] of Charlemount and gen. on the staff.	An able speaker, steady, but very infirm.
. . . . .	Lord Shannon.
A living for a friend .	Steady to Government.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby's friend.
. . . . .	Against Gov[t].
Com[r] of Appeals to his cousin, livings to his friends, and three com[s] in the army.	Generally with Government, great weight in the House.
. . . . .	Against Gov[t].
. . . . .	Attached to M[r]. Ponsonby, and on some late occasions had gone with Gov[t] to save himself.
A company of foot to his friend.	With Gov[t] in general, but lately much abroad.
A pension to his brother the gen. of £500 a year.	
Collector of Excise for Dublin co.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Mullingar Manor.	S[r] R[d] Steele .	. . . . .
,, .	John Scott . .	. . . . .
Wexford co. .	Vesey Colclough .	. . . . .
,, .	George Ogle .	. . . . .
Bannow bo. .	Cha[s] Tottenham .	Collector of Drogheda, £400.
,, .	Rob[t] Hellen .	. . . . .
Clonmines .	Henry Loftus .	. . . . .
,, .	Cha[s] Tottenham of T. Green.	. . . . .
Enniscorthy .	Corn[s] Grogan .	. . . . .
,, .	Sir Ed. Newenham	Collector of Excise in the county of Dublin, worth £700 a y[r].
Fethard . .	Arthur Loftus .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
A Bart., and trustee of the L. Board.	Said he would support Lord T[d] for the said favors, has since been against, and asks a pension for his son.
A seat in Parl[t], and King's Council, Council to the Com[rs] of Customs.	A very able and rising young man, both in Parl[t] and at the barr, and punctual when he professes.
. . . . .	Always against.
. . . . .	Violent against.
. . . . .	Lord Ely, but in his heart much for M[r]. Ponsonby.
Council to the Com[rs] of Excise.	Lord Ely, an able man.
Com[r] of Accounts, £500, and a cornetcy for his son, and his other son an aid de camp.	
. . . . .	Lord Ely.
. . . . .	Always against.
. . . . .	In violent opposition and turned out of his collection, a bad speaker.
. . . . .	Lord Ely, a good attender, but very infirm, a very worthy man.

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Fethard . .	John Tottenham .	. . . .
Gorey . .	Abel Ram . .	. . . .
,, . .	Stephen Ram .	. . . .
New Rosstown	Cha[s] Tottenham .	Surveyor Gen. of Leinster.
,, .	Rob[t] Leigh . .	. . . .
Taghmon bo. .	James Wilson .	. . . .
,, .	Sir J. Law. Cotter	His father made a Bart. in 1763.
Wexford town.	Rich[d] Le Hunt .	. . . .
,, .	Rich[d] Neville .	. . . .
Wicklow co. .	Hon. W. Brabazon, son to Lord Meath.	. . . .
,, .	Ralph Howard .	. . . .
Ballinglass bo.	Hon. J. Stratford, son to L[d] Ballinglass.	His father made a Peer in 1762.
,, .	Godfrey Lile .	. . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
. . . . .	Lord Ely, but never attends.
. . . . .	Always against.
. . . . .	Do.
A Com[r] of Customs .	Lord Ely.
. . . . .	Against Gov[t], but moderate.
. . . . .	Mr. Ponsonby.
. . . . .	At present in opposition, but likely not to continue.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby.
Made his father a Com[r] .	He is sometimes with Gov[t] but uncertain and independent.
. . . . .	M[r]. Ponsonby's friend, his father lost his pension.
A Privy Counc[r], wants a Peerage.	Steady to Gov[t].
Leave to his b[r] to purchase a comp. of foot, for which he promised to support.	And always against in every question.
Solicitor Gen., and an ensigncy for his friend, assisted him also in coming into Parliament.	

Counties and Boroughs.	Members' Names.	Favors rec[d] in former Governments.
Blessington bo.	Jo. Mon. Mason .	Com[r] of the Barracks.
,, .	Cha[s] Dunbar .	. . . . .
Cariesfort .	Sir W[m] Mayne .	. . . . .
,, .	Sir Rob[t] Tilson Deane.	. . . . .
Wicklow .	Edw[d] Tighe .	. . . . .
,, .	John Dillon .	. . . . .

Favors received in Lord Townshend's Government.	Observations.
Com[r] of Excise, and a seat in Parliam[t], and provided for his brother-in-law, M[r]. Monk and M[r]. Mitchell.	
A living to his friend .	Seldom attends, independent, some connection with L[d] Hillsboro'.
. . . . .	Duke of Leinster's friend, was dismissed from the Council Board.
. . . . .	Independent, but wants favors, and in general with the Government.
Commissioner of Accounts, and the Surveyorship of Wicklow to his friend.	A sensible man, and can be usefull in the House.
. . . . .	Independent, generally supports Government.

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Harcourt.

The Harcourt papers.

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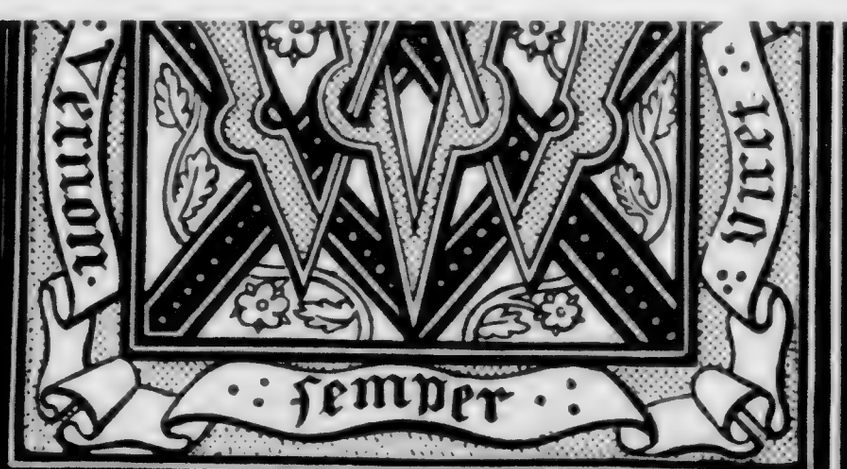
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THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

THE

HARCOURT PAPERS.

EDITED BY

EDWARD WILLIAM HARCOURT,

OF STANTON HARCOURT, AND NUNEHAM COURTENAY,
IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORD, ESQUIRE.

VOL. XI.

Printed for Private Circulation by
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PREFACE.

WE have now, in this Eleventh Volume, carried the "Harcourt Papers" down to the date of the death of the last Earl Harcourt, in 1830.

It is believed that three more volumes will conclude the series.

Those volumes will go back to the birth of Edward, son of Martha Harcourt, sister of Simon, Earl Harcourt, who, on the failure of male descendants of the first Lord Harcourt, succeeded to the family estates.

The first Lord Harcourt, Queen Anne's Chancellor, was the founder of his own fortunes, as far as property was concerned. He inherited nothing but penury from his father, Sir Philip Harcourt, who had absolutely squandered the whole of his worldly goods. Sir Philip contracted a second marriage, but, had it not been that Miss Lee was the heiress of Ankerwycke, he would

not have had a single farthing to bequeath to her descendants.

The Lord Chancellor's property was further improved by the good management of his grandson, the first Earl Harcourt, and by the additions made to the estates by his great grandson, Edward, afterwards Archbishop of York.

It will be remembered that the Lord Chancellor's son, who died before his father, married Elizabeth Evelyn. The fruit of this marriage was a son, who was made Earl of Harcourt, and a daughter married, as his third wife, to George, first Lord Vernon. The first Earl Harcourt left two sons, each of whom in their turn bore the title of Earl Harcourt. They both died childless, and so it happened that the son of the first Earl's sister inherited the property. This son was Edward Harcourt, Archbishop of York, whose grandson, another Edward Harcourt, is the present possessor of the estates.

This is the individual who has edited these

papers—not as a literary work, but solely with a view of preserving family information for his descendants. Such information can be of little interest to those who are outside the family circle. It is, therefore, only privately printed. One advantage is thus gained by the Editor, namely, that he places himself beyond the pale of public criticism.

It is possible that the concluding volumes may not prove the least interesting of the series to those for whose benefit they are intended.

If no other object has been served, the Editor has at any rate had a pious satisfaction in contributing towards the preservation of family records, however trifling.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 17 line 18, *read* "d'agréer ses remercimens."
" 45 " 19, *for* "shield" *read* "shields."
" 133 " 23, *for* "Groves" *read* "Grove."
" 210 " 27, *for* "Lees" *read* "Lee."
" 290 " 19, *for* "*pro*scription" *read* "*pro*scriptive."

Harcourt Papers.

THE Letter with which this Eleventh Volume commences exhibits the intention entertained by Simon, Earl Harcourt, of purchasing an estate in Wales. Such an intention has been previously alluded to in the Third Volume of these Papers [viz. pages 74 and 75], by Lady Harcourt in letters to her son. St. Donat's Castle, in the south of Glamorganshire, was then in question.

At that time, namely in July, 1755, Lord Harcourt was also occupied in building the new house at Nuneham. Three years later his Welsh projects appear to have expanded in extent. The negotiations, however, fell through, and Pipewell Abbey, in Northamptonshire, which was to have been sold to assist in paying for the Welsh property, was subsequently disposed of to provide fortunes for General Harcourt and Lady Elizabeth Lee.

Simon, Earl Harcourt, to the Agent of the Duke of Beaufort :—

"*Cockthrop, near Witney, Oxfordshire, July* 31, 1758.

"SIR,—As the Duke of Beaufort's trustees seem unwilling to take the money which I offered for the Monmouth and the three Castle estates, and may be more inclinable to dispose of the greater part of the Estate together, I will venture to offer £135,000 for the following estates: Penrose, Dingestone, Killgoygan, Monmouth, Trellegy, Grainge, Uske, Ragland, and Pellenny, and the three Castle estates in Mr. Gardener's Collection. In this list I mean to include all the Duke's Monmouthshire estates, except Chepstow, Portcassegg, and Magor, upon the following conditions. That during the treaty no coppice wood shall be cut under the age of fifteen years, no trees cut down, no lives filled up, no new leases granted, and, if the purchase takes place, that I shall have the benefit of any leases that may fall in during the course of the treaty.

"As it must necessarily require some time to carry such an affair into execution, the trustees may employ that time in collecting the arrears of rent, which they may do more effectually and with less clamour than a purchaser can be supposed to do. The trustees will observe that the

price which I have offered for these estates greatly exceeds the common price of land in Monmouthshire, and indeed the more so, as I am told the three Castle estates are held under the Dutchy of Lancaster, and, consequently, of less value than a freehold estate.

"If you are willing to treat upon these terms, and will send me a particular rental of each estate, you shall have my final answer as soon as I can take a view of the estate, which must be examined by the particulars which you may send.

"I have already, Sir, given you a good deal of trouble, which is unavoidable in affairs of this nature, but I shall decline giving you any more if these proposals don't meet with your approbation ; for it is not worth my while to give more than I have offered. I came from Monmouthshire on Saturday. My stay there was very short, and the weather so rainy that I had little sport upon the hills, and as little opportunity of seeing the country.

"I am, Sir,
"with the greatest respect,
"Your most faithful
"and obedient Servant,
"HARCOURT."

Letters from J. J. Rousseau.

THE letters which follow were written during the years 1766, 1767, 1768, by J. J. Rousseau to Lord Nuneham. The drawings, prints, and etchings alluded to in the letters are still to be found in portfolios at Nuneham.

From J. J. Rousseau to Lord Nuneham :—

"*A Wootton, le* 24 *Dbre.*, 1766.

"JE croirois, Mylord, executer peu honnêtement la resolution que j'ai prise de me défaire de mes estampes et de mes Livres, si je ne vous priois de vouloir bien commencer par en retirer les estampes dont vous avez eu la bonté de me faire présent. J'en fais assurément tout le cas possible, et la necessité de ne rien laisser sous mes yeux qui me rappelle un gout auquel je veux renoncer, pouvoit seule en obtenir le sacrifice. S'il y a dans mon petit recueil, soit d'estampes soit de livres, quelque chose qui puisse vous convenir, je vous prie de me faire l'honneur de l'agréer, et surtout par préférence ce qui me vient de votre digne ami M. Watelet et qui ne doit passer qu'en main d'ami.

"Enfin, Mylord, si vous étes à portée d'aider au débit du reste, je reconnoitrai dans cette bonté les soins officieux dont vous m'avez permis de me prévaloir. C'est chez M. Davenport que vous pourrez visitter le tout, si vous voulez bien en prendre la peine. Il demeure en Piccadilly à côté de Lord Egremont. Recevez, Mylord, je vous supplie, les assurances de ma reconnoissance et de mon respect.

"J. J. ROUSSEAU."

From J. J. Rousseau to Lord Nuneham :—

"*A Wootton, le* 7 *fevrier*, 1767.

"IL est vrai, Mylord, que je vous croyois ami de M. Hume, mais la preuve que je vous croyois encore plus ami de la justice et de la vérité, est, que sans vous écrire, sans vous prevenir en aucune façon, je vous ai cité et nommés avec confiance sur un fait qui étoit a sa charge, sans crainte d'être démenti par vous. Je ne suis pas assez injuste pour juger par M. Hume de tous ses amis.

"Il en a qui le connoissent et qui sont très dignes de lui ; mais il en a aussi qui ne le connoissent pas, et ceux là mérite qu'on les plaigne, sans les en estimer moins. Je suis très touché, Mylord, de vos lettres, et très sensible au courage que vous avez de vous montrer de mes amis parmi vos compatriotes et vos pareils, mais je suis fâché

pour eux qu'il faille à cela du courage ; je connois des gens mieux instruits chez les quels on y mettroit de la vanité. Je vous prouverai, Mylord, mon entière et pleine confiance en me prévalant de vos offres ; et dès à présent j'ai une grace à vous demander ; c'est de me donner des nouvelles de M. Watelet. Il est l'ancien ami de M. Dalembert, mais il est aussi mon ancienne connoissance, et les seuls jugemens que je crains sont ceux des gens qui ne me connoissent pas. Je puis bien dire de M. Watelet au sujet de M. Dalembert ce que j'ai dit de vous au sujet de M. Hume ; mais je connois l'incroyable ruse de mes ennemis, capable d'enlacer dans les pièges adroits la raison et la vertu mêmes. Si M. Watelet m'aime toujours, de grace, pressez-vous de me le dire ; car j'ai grand besoin de le savoir. Agréez, Mylord, je vous supplie, mes très humbles salutations et mon respect.

"J. J. ROUSSEAU."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*A Wootton, le* 14 *fevr.*, 1767.

"VOUS m'avez donné, Mylord, le prémier vrai plaisir que j'ai gouté depuis longtems, en m'apprenant que jétois toujours aimé de M. Watelet. Je le mérite en vérité par mes sentimens pour lui,

et moi qui m'inquiette très médiocrement de l'estime du public, je sens que je n'aurois jamais pu me passer de la sienne. Il ne faut absolument point que ses estampes soient en vente avec les autres, et puisque, de peur de reprendre un gout auquel je veux renoncer, je n'ose les avoir avec moi, je vous prie de les prendre au moins en dépot jusqu'à ce que vous trouviez à les lui renvoyer ou à en faire un usage convenable. Si vous trouviez par hazard à les changer entre les mains de quelque amateur contre un livre de botanique, à la bonne heure, j'aurois le plaisir de mettre à ce livre le nom de M. Watelet : mais pour les vendre, jamais. Pour le reste, puisque vous voulez bien chercher à m'en défaire, je laisse à votre entière disposition le soin de me rendre ce bon office, pourvu que cela se fasse de la part des achetteurs sans faveur et sans préférence, et qu'il ne soit pas question de moi. Puisque vous ne dédaignez pas de vous donner pour moi ces petits tracas, j'attens de la candeur de vos sentimens que vous consulterez plus mon gout que mon avantage ; ce sera m'obliger doublement. Ce n'est point un produit necessaire à ma subsistence. Je le destine en entier à des livres de botanique, seul et dernier amusement auquel je me suis consacré.

"L'honneur que vous faites à M^lle^ de V—— de vous souvenir d'elle l'autorise à vous assurer

de sa reconnoissance et de son respect. Agréez, Mylord, je vous supplie les mêmes sentimens de ma part.

"J. J. Rousseau.

"Il doit y avoir parmi mes estampes un petit portefeuille contenant de bonnes épreuves de celles de tout mes écrits. Oserai-je me flatter que vous ne dédaignerez pas ce faible cadeau, et de placer ce portefeuille parmi les votres? Je prends la liberté de prier, Mylord, de vouloir bien donner cours à la lettre ci-jointe."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"A Wootton, le 5 Mars, 1767.

"Je ne suis pas surpris, Mylord, de l'état où vous avez trouvé mes estampes, je m'attendois à pis ; mais il me paroit cependant singulier qu'il ne s'en soit pas trouvé une seule de M. Watelet. Quoique parmi beaucoup de gravures qu'il m'avoit données il y en eut peu des siennes, il y en avoit pourtant. La préférence qu'on leur a donnée fait honneur à son burin. J'en avois un beaucoup plus grand nombre de M. l'Abbé de St. Non. Si elles s'y trouvent je ne voudrois pas non plus qu'elles fussent vendues ; car quoique je n'aye pas l'honneur de le connoitre personnellement elles etoient un cadeau de sa part. Si vous ne

les aviez pas, Mylord, et qu'elles pussent vous plaire, vous m'obligeriez beaucoup de vouloir les agréer. Le papier que vous avez eu la bonté de m'envoyer est de la main de Mylord Mareschal, et me rappelle qu'il y a dans mon recueil un portrait de lui, sans nom, mais tête nue, et très ressemblant, que pour rien au monde je ne voudrois perdre, et dont j'avois oublié de vous parler. C'est la seule estampe que je veuille me reserver, et quand elle me laisseroit la fantaisie d'avoir les portraits des hommes qui lui ressemblent, ce gout ne seroit pas ruineux. Je sens avec combien d'indiscretion j'abuse de votre tems et de vos bontés ; mais quelque peine que vous donne la recherche de ce portrait, j'en aurois une infiniment plus grande à m'en voir privé. Si vous parvenez à le retrouver, je vous supplie, Mylord, de vouloir bien l'envoyer à M. Davenport afin qu'il le joigne au premier envoi qu'il aura la bonté de me faire.

"Comme, après tout, mon recueil étoit assez peu de chose, que probablement il ne s'est pas accru dans les mains des Douaniers et des Libraires, et que les retranchemens que j'y fais font du reste un objet de très peu de valeur, j'ai à me reprocher de vous avoir embarrassé de ces bagatelles ; mais pour vous dire la vérité, Mylord, je ne cherchois qu'un prétexte pour me prévaloir de vos offres et vous montrer ma confiance en vos bontés.

"J'oubliois de vous parler de la découpure de M. Hubert : c'est effectivement M. de Voltaire en habit de theatre. Comme je ne suis pas tout à fait aussi curieux d'avoir sa figure que celle de Mylord Marêchal, vous pouvez Mylord, à votre choix, garder ou jetter ou donner ou bruler ce chiffon ; pourvu qu'il ne me revienne pas, c'est tout ce que je desire. Agréez, Mylord, je vous supplie, les assurances de mon respect.

"J. J. ROUSSEAU."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*A Wootton, le 2 Avril*, 1767.

"J'APPRENS, Mylord, par M. Davenport que vous avez eu la bonté de me défaire de toutes mes estampes, hors une. Serois-je assez heureux pour que cette estampe exceptée fut celle du Roi ; je le desire assez pour l'espérer : en ce cas vous auriez bien lû dans mon cœur, et je vous prierois de vouloir conserver soigneusement cette estampe j'usqu'à ce que j'aye l'honneur de vous voir et de vous remercier de vive voix. Je la joindrais à celle de Mylord Marechal, pour avoir le plaisir de contempler quelque fois les traits de mes bienfaiteurs, et de me dire en les voyant qu'il est encore des hommes bienfaisans sur la terre.

"Cette idée m'en rappelle une autre que ma

mémoire absolument éteinte avoit laissée échaper. Ce portrait du Roi avec une vingtaine d'autres me Viennent de M. de Ramsay qui ne voulut jamais m'en dire le prix. Ainsi ce prix lui appartient et non pas à moi ; mais comme probablement il ne voudroit pas plus l'accepter aujourdhui que ci-devant, et que je n'en veux pas, non plus, faire mon profit, je ne vois à cela d'autre expédient que de distribuer aux pauvres le produit de ces estampes, et je crois, Mylord, qu'une fonction de charité ne peut rien avoir que l'humanité de votre cœur dédaigne. La difficulté seroit de savoir quel est ce produit, ne pouvant moi-même me rappeller le nombre et la qualité des estampes. Ce que je sais c'est que ce sont toutes gravures angloises, dont je n'avois que quelques autres avant celles-là.

"Pour ne pas abuser de vos bontés, Mylord, au point de vous engager dans de nouvelles recherches je ferai une évaluation grossiére de ces gravures, et j'estime que le prix n'en pouvoit guéres passer quatre ou cinq guinées. Ainsi pour aller au plus sur, ce sont cinq guinées sur le produit du tout que je prends la liberté de vous prier de vouloir bien distribuer aux pauvres. Vous voyez, Mylord, comment j'en use avec vous. Quoique je sois persuadé que mon importunité, ne passe pas votre complaisance, si javois prévu jusqu'òu je serois forcé de la porter je me serois gardé de

m'oublier à ce point. Agreez, Mylord, je vous supplie, mes trés humbles excuses et mon respect.

"J. J. ROUSSEAU."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*A Wootton, le* 11 *Avril*, 1767.

"JE ne puis, Mylord, que vous reiterer mes très humbles excuses et remercimens de toutes les peines que vous avez bien voulu prendre en ma faveur. Je vous suis très obligé de m'avoir conservé le portrait du Roy. Je le reverrai souvent avec grand plaisir, et je me livre envers S. M. à toute la plenitude de ma reconnoissance, très assuré qu'en faisant le bien, elle n'a point d'autre vue que de bien faire. Puisque vous savez au juste à quoi monte le produit des estampes dont M. Ramsay avoit eu l'honnêteté de me faire le cadeau, vous pouvez y borner la distribution que vous voulez bien avoir la bonté de faire aux pauvres, et remettre le surplus à M. Davenport qui veut bien se charger de me l'apporter. J'aspire, Mylord, au moment d'aller vous rendre mes actions de grace, et mes devoirs, en personne, et il ne tiendra pas à moi que ce ne soit avant votre dèpart de Londres.

"Recevez, en attendant, je vous supplie, Mylord, mes très humbles salutations et mon respect.

"J. J. ROUSSEAU.

"Je ne vous parle point de ma santé, parce qu'elle n'est pas meilleure, et que ce n'est pas la peine d'en parler pour n'avoir que les même choses à dire. Celle de M^lle^ le Vapeur, à laqu'elle vous avez la bonté de vous interesser, est très mauvaise, et il n'est pas bien étonnant qu'elle empire de jour en jour."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Le* 16 *Juillet*, 1767.

"JE reçois seulement en ce moment, Mylord, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 7 May, et le billet que vous m'avez envoyé sous la même date. En vous remerciant de l'une et de l'autre et en vous réitérant mes trés humbles excuses de la peine que vous avez bien voulu prendre en ma faveur permettez qu'étant éloigné de vous je prenne la liberté de me recommander à l'honneur de vôtre souvenir, de vous assurer que vos bontés ne sortiront point de ma mémoire, et de vous renouveller les protestations de ma reconnaissance et de mon respect.

"Je vous demande la permission, Mylord, de ne point dater, quant à présent, du lieu de ma retraite, et de ne plus signer au nom sous lequel j'ai vécu si malheureux. Vous ne tarderez pas d'être instruit de celui que j'ai pris et par lequel je vous rendrai disormais mes hommages, si vous me permettez de vous les renouveller qu'elque fois. Si vous m'honorer d'une réponse, M. Watelet en à portée de me faire passer."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"13 *Janvier*, 1768.

"JE me reprocherois, Mylord, d'avoir tardi si longtems à vous écrire et à vous remercier, si je ne me rendois le temoignage que la volonté y étoit toute entière et que ce que je veux faire est toujours ce que je fais le moins. J'ai entre autres été depuis trois mois garde-malade, et je n'ai pas quitté le chevet d'un ami qui grace au Ciel est enfin parfaitement rétabli. Je vous offre, Mylord, les prémiers de mes loisirs et c'est avec autant d'empressement que de reconnoissance que touché de toutes les bontés dont vous m'avez honoré, je vous en demande la continuation. Il ne tiendra pas à moi qu'en les cultivant avec le plus grand soin je ne vous témoigne en toute occasion combien elles me sont précieuses.

"J'ai reçut depuis très longtems l'argent du

billet que vous prites la peine de m'envoyer pour le produit des estampes, et c'est encore un de mes torts les moins excusables de ne vous en avoir tout de suite accusé la reception ; mais je me reposois un peu en cela sur votre Banquier qui n'aura pas manqué de vous en donner avis.

"Vous me demandez, Mylord, ce qu'il faloit faire des estampes de M. Watelet. Nous étions convenus que puisque vous ne les aviez pas et qu'elles vous étoient agréables, vous les ajouteriez à vos portefeuilles, d'autant plus qu'elles ne pouvoient passer decemment et convenablement que dans les mains d'un ami de l'auteur. Ainsi j'espère qu'à ce titre vous ne dédaignerez pas de les accepter. A l'égard de l'estampe du Roy je désire extrémement qu'elle me parvienne, et si vous permettez que j'abuse encore de vos bontés, j'ose vous supplier de la faire envelopper avec soin dans un rouleau, et si par hazard vous connoissez quelqu'un qui vint à Paris et qui voulut bien s'en charger de la lui remettre pour moi à l'addresse de *M. Coindet, à l'Hotel Le Blanc, rue de Clery*, et si les occasions ne se présentent pas je vous prie d'envoyer le Pacquet à *M. Rougemont, Green Lettice Lane, Canon Street*, qui se chargera de me la faire parvenir. Je desire extrememement recevoir bientot cette belle estampe, que j'aurai soin de faire encadrer convenablement, pour avoir les traits de mon auguste bienfaiteur incessamment

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sous les yeux, comme ses bontés seront incessamment dans mon cœur.

"Daignez, Mylord, continuer à m'honorer des votres et quelquefois des marques de votre souvenir. Je tâcherai de mon côté de ne me pas laisser oublier de vous, en vous renouvellant autant que cela ne vous importunera pas les assurances de mon plus entier dévouement et de mon plus vrai respect.

"L'Herboriste de Made la
"Duchesse De Portland."

From J. J. Rousseau to Viscount Nuneham :—

"*A Paris*, 16 *Juin*, 1772.

"J'AI reçut, Mylord, avec plaisir et reconnoissance des témoignages de la continuation de votre souvenir et de vos bontés par Madame la Duchesse de Portland; et je suis encore plus sensible à la peine que vous prenez de m'en donner par vous-même. J'avois espéré que l'Ambassade de Mylord Harcourt pourroit vous attirer dans ce pays-ci c'eut été pour moi une véritable douceur de vous y voir. Je me dédomage, autant qu'il se peut, de cette attente frustrée, en nourrisant dans mon cœur et dans ma mémoire les sentimens que vous m'avez inspirés, et qui sont par leur nature à l'épreuve du

tems de l'éloignement et de l'interruption du commerce. Je n'entretiens plus de correspondance, je n'écris plus que pour l'absolue nécessité; mais je n'oublie point tout ce qui m'a paru mériter mon estime et mon attachement, et c'est dans cet azile de difficile accès, mais par là plus digne de vous, et où rien n'entre sans le passeport de la vertu, que vous occuperez toujours une place distinguée.

"Je suis sensible, Mylord, à vos offres obligeantes, et, si j'étois dans le cas de m'en prévaloir, je le ferois avec confiance et même avec joye, pour vous montrer combien je compte sur vos bontés; mais, grace au ciel, je n'ai nulle affaire, et tout sur la terre m'est devenu si indifférent que je ne me donnerois pas même la peine de former un désir pour cette vie, quand cet acte seul sufficeroit pour l'accomplir.

"Ma femme vous prie d'agréers es remercimens très humbles de l'honneur de votre souvenir, et nous vous offrons, Mylord, de tout notre cœur, l'un et l'autre nos salutations et nos respects.

"J. J. Rousseau.

"Extroit de la feuille qui paroit tous les matins à Paris sous le titre de Journal de paris. No. 187. Lundi, 6 Juillet 1778, fo. 747. Titre *variété*. Imprimé à Paris chez Quittau rue du fovarre.

"'Jean Jacques Rousseau Citoyen de Geneve 'dont nous avons annoncé la mort dans la feuille

'de hier avoit dessein depuis quelques années de 'quitter Paris. Il a cedé aux instances de l'amitié, 'et s'est établi sur la fin de May dernier dans une 'petite maison qui appartient a M. le Marquis 'de Girardin, Seigneur d'Ermenonville, et située 'tres pret du Chateau. Il eut Lundi dernier 2nde 'mois, a neuf heures du matin, en revenant de 'la promenade, une attaque d'Apoplexie qui dura 'deux heures et demie le dont il mourut.

"'Les honneurs funebre lui furent rendus par 'M. le Marquis de Girardin; Son corps, apres 'avoir été embaumé et renfermé dans un cercueil 'de Plomb, fut inhumé le Samedi suivant, 4 du 'present mois, dans l'enceinte du Parc d'Erme- 'nonville, sur l'isle dite des Peupliers, au milien de 'la pièce d'eau appellée le petit Lac, et située au 'midy du Chateau, sous une tombe décorée et 'elevée d'environ six pieds. Il est né le 28 Juin '1712.'"

Letter from some American Prisoners.

THIS letter was received by Lieut.-Colonel Hay, at that time Commanding Officer of the Sussex Militia. The following circumstances were the occasion of its being written.

Five American prisoners, who had made their escape from their prison at Winchester, were accidentally met by a party of the Sussex Militia, which re-took them, and on their march treated them with the greatest humanity, not only protecting them from any insult that might have been offered to them in the villages through which they passed, but supplying them with what provisions these unfortunate and almost famished men wanted, at their own expense; and when they were re-delivered to the keeper of the prison at Winchester, the serjeant who commanded this small detachment gave the

prisoners five shillings, which he had collected among the soldiers who took them.

This letter was written in the month of November, 1779:—

"The American prisoners offer their sincere acknowledgments to the Officers of the Sussex Regiment for their generous benefaction which, in alleviating the miseries of human nature, produced still nobler sensations in the mind; having taught us that the misfortunes of war abolish every hostile idea in the heart of the British soldiers, or perhaps that the love of freedom is a crime the brave can overlook. An attempt to regain that liberty we have been three years deprived of, unaccompanied with violence or mischief, was surely not unjustifiable, yet if bound to secure us you therein did your duty as soldiers; by relieving us you have distinguished yourselves as men; Valour and Humanity have ever marched together; the presence of one is the surest hostage for the other.

"The sentiments of liberality acquired by a superior education were too well known for your bounty to excite any emotion of surprize; but when we were so generously relieved by the private soldiers who re-took us, gratitude was suspended between wonder and veneration. The

feelings of humanity are alien to no English heart (beneath a Minister of State), yet this splendid exertion in a rank surely not opulent must for ever distinguish the Sussex Regiment with unrivalled lustre.

"We are not without hopes that the cause of being taken in arms might be favourably explained. But this need not be entered into; the appeal has been made to the God of Armies who seems deciding on the contest. America confides in his justice, and sends no Commissioners to sue for Peace. If our conduct required a vindication the hour is not yet propitious; the same Ministers who have lost America and ruined Ireland still guide the helm of Britain; nor will the wish of any rival Nation suggest a removal. They have been your enemies more than ours, although oppression has been equally extended, and in some points of view our sufferings are of the lighter kind. You have lost your bravest Troops, have had your treasures wasted, and your commerce destroyed, without one gleam of advantage to cheer the sad prospect of destruction when invasions threaten the remnant of a dismembered Empire. Through the same baneful influence we have been massacred and impoverished, but are rising from our ashes with a lustre which no success can restore to you. To some these truths would seem harsh, but we are speaking to men

guiltless of the crimes, who have predicted their consequences, and opposed their progress. We are misled if all the Militia of this kingdom are not as much the patrons of liberty abroad as its *paladium* at home. From their honest lessons a King of England may hereafter learn that he has no power but what he derives from his people. Whatever destroys the cause annihilates the effects, and to circumscribe their rights is to shake his own.

"In a paper dictated by the warmest feelings of the heart, malice itself cannot discover disrespect, even if the heavy hours of a prison should render misery loquacious. We have been diffuse in wishing but to say how much we thank you: yet words were the only tribute we had left to offer, although Gratitude and Memory will be coeval with existence.

"Directed to the Officer Commanding the Sussex Militia at Exeter, from Plymouth."

Letter from Earl Harcourt.

THE following letter refers to the marriage of Lady Georgina Buckley in 1782.

From George Simon, Earl Harcourt, to Lady Cecilia Johnston:—

"*Nuneham, Monday.*

"MADAM,—It is impossible for me to express half what Lady Harcourt and myself feel for your Ladyship's great kindness in having communicated to us an event so interesting to yourself, and to those who, like me, from gratitude and affection, have long been attached to your family. I am extremely glad that my young friend (I cannot call her little) is not to be connected with any of our frippery *Lordlings;* for, from what I hear, and from what I have myself observed of the characters of our young nobility, I am grown to hate a Lord, as much as if I were a rich citizen or a country Squire. I cannot be surprised at Lady Georgina West having inspired a passion as romantic as it is violent; on the contrary, it gives me a high opinion of the young man, for she is certainly one of the cleverest and most lovely creatures that ever was born, and not

having been educated to gamble, to noddle, to snap, to make faces, and to *in*articulate, is likely neither to disgrace her birth by impertinence and ill-breeding, nor make her husband wretched and despicable by her gallantries and extravagance.

"The account your Ladyship sends me of your box is delectable, and one of the first nights in January I shall hope to have the honour of taking possession of the place you have allowed me in it. The circumstance of being able to see so well in the back seats without being seen, in any other box than your Ladyship's, would be a most desirable circumstance to such a savage as myself, who likes to look at the world only through a telescope; but I have still some vanity left, and nothing can gratify that passion more highly than shewing myself as your Ladyship's intimate friend, and, therefore, I must lay in a claim to put forth my head once or twice during the representation.

"Lady Harcourt charges me with a thousand acknowledgements for your repeated goodness to her, and begs leave, as I do likewise, to be remembered to General Johnston.

"I have the honour,
"Madam,
"to assure your Ladyship of my
"affectionate respect.
"HARCOURT."

Letter from Richard Gough.

RICHARD GOUGH, the Camden, as he was called, of the eighteenth century, was born Oct. 21, 1735. He inherited an ample fortune from his father. At a very early age he commenced his literary career. At the age of eleven he wrote a "History of the Bible translated from the French;" at the age of fifteen he completed a translation of a work by the Abbot Fleury; and at the same age he prepared for the press his "Atlas Renovatus." After leaving Cambridge he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries. The works by which Gough is best known are his "Vetusta Monumenta," his edition of Camden, and his "British Topography." Many of his most valuable books he bequeathed to the Bodleian in Oxford; the remainder of his library, which was disposed of by Sotheby in 1810, sold for somewhat over £4,000.

Gough was a man of great independence of mind, in which he somewhat gloried. That his mind in his latter days should have been overwhelmed by imbecility was a great grief to his many admirers. Distinguished as he was as a scholar, he loved to relax in his convivial hours into easy pleasantry, and his unostentatious and judicious benevolence caused his loss to be widely felt; he died in Feb., 1809, and was buried at Wormley, Herts.

From Richard Gough to Lord Harcourt:—

"*Enfield, December 25th*, 1783.

"MY LORD,—I am favored with your Lordship's most obliging attention to my papers, and encouraged to submit to your correction the remaining sheets of Oxfordshire.

"The circumstance of the three Ladies wearing the Garter had not escaped me. I have drawings made by Mr. Grierson of the monument of Sir R. de Harcourt and his Lady, and the Countess of Suffolk at Ewelme, for a work on our antient Monuments which I have been some time engaged in, and to which Mr. Walpole has contributed so munificently from his fine collection of Drawings.

"The monument of Lady Tankerville is, as your Lordship observes, so mutilated that it is impossible to do it justice, nor has it been attempted in Dr. Ducarell's History of St. Katherine's Hospital.

"I congratulate your Lordship and the public on the possession of the Sheldon Maps[a], and that the earliest memorial of two arts among us, Tapestry and Map-making, will at length find a Repository worthy of them, and which will hand them down in security to the latest posterity.

"If your Lordship will indulge me with the perusal of A. Wood's MS. account of Ewelme, South Leigh, and Cumnor, I will take particular care of them. Any parcel addressed to me at my Printers, Mr. Nichols, in Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, will be safely forwarded to

"Your Lordship's obedient
"humble servant,
"RICHARD GOUGH."

[a] These maps are now in the Yorkshire Museum—a not very appropriate place for maps of Oxfordshire. They were transferred there through a misconception. If they were to have left Nuneham they ought to have gone to Oxford.

Letters from Earl Harcourt.

FROM Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt. Giving an account of his being made a D.C.L. at Oxford :—

"*Friday night, September*, 1786.

". . . . Of the ever memorable yesterday, Mr. Haggitt has sent you an account, but words cannot paint my sufferings whilst I stood in the middle of a spacious long room, with the Doctors and Masters of Arts, &c., 'all ranged a terrible shew!' around it, listening to commendations of myself, of which I was but too conscious I did not deserve the tenth part; and I am persuaded many a poor wretch at the foot of the gallows is not more terrified or trembling than I was during that awful ceremony, made still more so by the number of gazers, and by the full attendance of the Convocation to honour my admission to a degree. Sir James Stonhouse and Mr. Bennet went to Oxford on purpose to pay me the compliment of being present on the occasion, for which I feel myself much obliged to them. Can Honour brace a man's nerves? no; Honour then has no skill in physic any more than in surgery? no. You shall

hear the whole of my eventful history; and I shall next tell you that, happy at the business of Doctorizing being ended, I went to pass a quiet quarter of an hour with the Vice Chancellor, and afterwards with Dr. Hoare, to see some antiquities and painted glass at a private House; never once recollecting till it was almost time to set out for Cuddesden, that the Mayor and Sir John Treacher had waited on me early in the morning from the Corporation, to offer me the freedom of the City, and that I had appointed to go to the Town Hall immediately on coming out of the Convocation House; therefore I made them wait at least an hour and a half. The ceremony there was neither tedious nor tremendous; we had much bowing on all sides, and I was dismissed with a universal clapping of dirty hands; the staring, however, did not end whilst I remained in the Town, for there was a mob whenever I got in or out of my coach; in short, I returned with the weight of two fresh honours on my shoulder, for which my purse is grown lighter by 26 guineas.

"Ld and Ly Hawkesbury and the two Misses Cope offered themselves to dine here on Monday, but your absence, and Ly Vernon appearing even less desirous than myself of receiving them, I excused myself on the plea of that absence, and of our good mother being fatigued after her late journey, and consequently unable to do the

honours to them. N.B. the unwillingness was true, the fatigue entirely invention, for she is *perfectly* well, as are your sisters also."

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From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt :—

"*April*, 1790.

". . . . The ball last night was so pretty and picturesque that I was sorry my engagement to L^y^ Ailesbury obliged me to quit it so early, though I staid the supper, saw some dancing after it, and what was better than either, the universal romping between the two parts of the entertainment. The supper began between eight and nine o'clock, and except some cold fowls, was composed only of such harmless eatables as children are accustomed to.

"Lady Aylesbury's party was very small, and not unpleasant, and my reception highly distinguished, for I found G^l^ Conway at the head of the stairs to meet me, having been announced as P^s^ Sophia of Gloucester, a mistake occasioned by the Royal Carriage and Liveries. The *Divine* informed me that the Landgrave and the Landgravine returned from Windsor delighted with their Majesties' goodness to them."

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From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Thursday night, December*, 1792.

"THE Deuce is in it, ma belle, if you are not satisfied with my ample details of the French Harcourts ; the Queen told me, if the K. approved of it, that she meant to make them a visit at St. Leonards, in which I encouraged her. I was a considerable time with her to-day in the white and gold closet, when the K. came in from Kew and kept me there as long as he well could do, considering the hour of the day and what he had to do. He and the Queen both looked remarkably well, and were in the best of spirits. The crowd in the park was beyond all former example, and a very loud Huzza accompanied him as he drove to the door of the Queen's house. I confess I was persuaded that if any personal insult was intended towards him, it would be shewn on this day, but the very reverse appeared, although some seditious words addressed to him had been chalked the whole length of the park wall, *precisely opposite* each sentry box.

* * * * * *

"I sat down to my dinner at half-past nine, one reason for not giving you any account of the debate, but the truest and therefore the best reason is, that I have not attention enough to be able to relate long speeches, nor, if I had, have I patience

sufficient for such an undertaking; suffice it to say that L[d] Grenville's speech was super-excellent, L[d] Lansdown's reply superlatively wicked, dangerous, and Jesuitical, not one applauding, and had he been silly enough to have attempted a division, those two Peers would have been opposed to the whole House; but the intention of Malazgrida (his former political title) being only to prevent its appearing to the world, and on the Journals, that the address had passed *nemine dissidente*, that wicked intention was answered by his having proposed an amendment. M[r]. Fox's amendment was, I suppose, the same or nearly so, and his speech, as I was told, outrageously violent, which offended many, hurt some, and alarmed others. M[r]. Wyndham's speech, I heard, was admirable; if their house divided it was universally believed that the division on M[r]. Fox's side would be extremely weak. To-morrow I go to the Levee and to the play, enough for one day.

"Pray order Jacob to see that Mr. Pope's portrait be *carefully* placed in a packing case, and brought to London with the waggon, for L[d] Onslow wants a copy of it, and has a right[a] to have one. Good night."

* * * * * *

[a] This refers to the fact that Lord Onslow had given Lord Harcourt a copy of his celebrated picture of Milton in his youth. This copy is now of value, as the original is said to be lost.

"Amongst the 50 who were in the minority last night against 290, were L[d] Ed. Bentinck, young L[d] G. Cavendish, L[d] John, and alas! L[d] Wm. Russell."

From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*December*, 1792.

".... My brother was from home, and so was M[rs]. Harcourt, and so I was obliged to announce myself to the poor Duchess, who was sitting with le prince de Craon and the eldest son of the head of my family; they both appear to be good humoured and obliging boys; the former is aukward, and ugly, and shy (no defect this in my eyes), but speaks English very fluently.

"Amadee d'Harcourt is very handsome, and reminded me of his charming Grandmother, whom I knew at Vallogne. The married and single girls are both of them simplicity and nature itself, and the P[ss] is pretty; neither of them have either grace or air. Le Duc de Mortemart is as simple and unaffected in his manners as M[r]. Mason could wish any man to be, and never did I see anything more to be admired than the fortitude and resignation of the two old people (Mons[r] and M[me] d'H. I mean). In a long *tête à tête* I had with her she never lamented the splendor she had been deprived

of, till on my representing to her the advantage she still enjoyed of being in a country where she had so many acquaintance, where her family was respected, and the Duke justly esteemed ; she assented to what I said, but burst into tears, and added, il est dur a mon age d'etre reduite à mourir de faim, ou à démander l'aumone ; the former thought I to myself can never happen to you whilst I can give you anything, and I have seen enough of this unfortunate family to be ready and willing to retrench my own luxuries to afford to them the assistance their moderate wants require. Every body, from the moment of their landing to the present hour, have shewn them the utmost attention and respect ; even the Custom House Officers, &c., have been obliging and civil. This treatment has raised the spirits of the Duke, but has made him draw comparisons between our nation and the Dutch, much to the discredit of the latter, where they were universally cheated, and treated with insolence."

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From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt :—

"*December*, 1792.

". . . . The Theatre in the Hay-market was crowded beyond what I had ever seen before, and the repeated huzzas, waving of hats, and the *whole*

audience standing up and singing the chorus of God save the King, had a most magnificent and touching effect. 30 Clubs in the City have been dissolved in consequence of the associations, and the Democratic party is now in its turn pannick struck ; but the evil spirit still remains in them and if ten thousand French were to land (and such a thing they will probably attempt if we go to war with them), it is supposed that every Presbyterian to a man would join with them, and that body consists of more than 200 thousand ; the French have in actual pay an army of 200 and thirty thousand men. The evil Mr. Fox has committed by not suffering the address to pass with apparent unanimity is very great, tho' the number of his supporters was so small. He intends on Monday to move that we should send a Minister to the national convention ; is this madness or the height of all wickedness ? the latter I believe.

"I have heard, and I believe it, that most of the mischief committed here, is by the French Servants, who, by money collected in their clubs (of which there are many), circulate the vile politics of their nation amongst their own and our countrymen. Would it not then be advisable before you leave Nuneham either to speak to de Ville yourself, or to employ Jacob to say that those circumstances are known, and that if he does frequent such clubs, or will not promise to attend

them no more, we must part with him, and give our reasons for so doing?"

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From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*December*, 1792.

". . . . If you want any stockings or such like merchandise, you may purchase them of our cousin Guerchy, as he carries them about him and offers them to sale; but as they say he cheats every body I shall not advise you to deal with him; he keeps a shop somewhere in Town with the name of Reguier de Guerchy written over it. This anecdote was learnt from his nearer relations, who avoid him, and would not receive him in this house, at the door of which I have ordered myself to be denied if he should come.

"My brother and M^rs^. Harcourt are to make some useful present to our respectable cousins, and he advises that I should send them half a hogshead of Claret, and the same of Port; a few dozens of the latter were offered to him at the house they take possession of on Tuesday next, but my brother saw by the Duke's embarrassment and hesitation that he thought it a luxury beyond his reach, and after some consideration he answered, nous boirons de la bière. What a change

of situation from the once affluent and hospitable possessor of Harcourt, and the Princely splendour of the Governor of Normandy, when the D^s^ had five femmes de chambre, et toute la Maison était montée sur le même ton.

* * * * * *

"I understand that the portrait of Milton[b] would be at Nuneham yesterday; pray order it to be taken out of its case, and tell Jacob to order an oval frame to be made to fit it; it is to be the pendant to L^d^ Orford, and therefore you will direct what design you like best. Pray also desire Mr. Haggitt, who writes a good hand, to be so obliging as to give him a memorandum where it is to be placed, and to remove J. J. Rousseau to the center door of the passage, S^r^ W. Raleigh[c] to the place occupied by Newton[c], and the latter over the door of the Library, into that where Otway now hangs, which is so execrably painted[d], that it may be sent to the lumber, or any other room."

* * * * * *

From Earl Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

". . . . D^r^. Vaughan has been here, and has condemned me to Bath the beginning of the ensu-

[b] This was Lord Onslow's picture.
[c] These pictures are wanting.
[d] This picture is by Riley, and now hangs in the state passage.

ing week, which I am sorry for, as you cannot possibly like to go thither, and as I am very far myself from wishing to go. Pray ask the Queen's permission for me to obey my Physician, as it may save H. M. the trouble of reading a letter from me.

* * * * * *

"Dr. Vaughan finds nothing amiss in my pulse except their want of fullness. My good Dr. (thought I to myself) you must contrive to make me young again before you can expect that mine should beat with youthful strength.

* * * * * *

"Adieu ma belle, and believe in the sincerity of my affection."

Letter addressed to George Simon, Earl Harcourt.

"MY LORD,—I serve since some years in the Imperial army, unto the Princes de Ligne Regiment; the peace has robbed me the expectation of promulgation; but the war which dures between the English Monarchy and France has raised up in me the desire to forsake a service, where there is now, before long, to hope, no opportunity of distinguishing one's self, to range me under the standards of his English Majesty and fight for the cause of a great people, who alone is able to cast down the proud of the French Tyrant and to re-instate the balance in Europe.

"Would you interest yourself for me, it should be easy to your Lordship to make me have an officer's commission, either unto the German or Swissmen Regiments, at the British service, for, as I speak German and French, I can be employed in those phalanxes, and likewise in the India army. Thus if you judge worthy of your patronage a Gentleman whose family is well known, and who has the honour to be a kinsman of yours from the side of Jane Tilly, who married, the sixth Februar in the year 1345, Philip of Harcourt, and brought him eighteen seigniories,

there is no doubt that my expectance shall be fulfilled, and my slight talents in practice.

"Dare I hope that you shall condescend to my asking by making obtain me what is the sincerest desire of my heart.

"I have the honour to be,
"My Lord,
"Your Lordship's
"Most Humble and
"Obedient Servant,
"*Signed.* Cte DE TILLY,
"*Imp. Officer.*

"*In Garrison at Leopol,*
"*the 24th August,* 1803."

Letter from Countess Harcourt.

FROM Countess Harcourt to Earl Harcourt :—

"*Tuesday, Aprii 18th,* 1809.

"THANK God, my Dearest Lord, my accounts of you this morning have quieted my mind, which I will own was sadly harrassed yesterday. It is bad enough to have you ill when I can watch and attend you, and know every moment how you are going on, but to be absent is misery, and I feel that while you are condemned to be in a dreamy dose in your great chair that it might be some satisfaction to you to have me for your *vis a vis* in mine; and you know I can be silent and not worry you by useless attempts to amuse you. Well, in two days more I shall be with you. I fear they will appear long ones notwithstanding the constant kindness I receive here, no part of which I feel so sensibly as the real interest that is expressed for you. I had hardly read my letters when Angelica came up with a message from the King and Queen to know what account I had got. I have since been with them, and they rejoiced with me like private friends in your being better. It was truly kind in you, my best beloved.

"*Memorandum.*

"I was interrupted as I finished the opposite page, and before I could continue my letter I received an express from my Brother desiring me to return to town directly, as he was alarmed about my Dear Lord. I did so, and when I arrived at eight o'clock on Tuesday evening the 18th of April, found that the bad symptoms had increased; yet still there appeared ground for hope, but on the following day the change was so great as to make me fear the worst, and at half-past one on Thursday morning, April the 20th, 1809, it pleased the Almighty to deprive me of a Husband whose unbounded kindness to me deserved the strong affection I felt for him when living, and ever shall retain for his memory. Little did I think that this would be the last letter I should ever begin to him, and that he would never see it.

"I will not murmur, O my God, at thy dispensations. I will bless thee for the years of happiness I have known, and pray through thy grace to be worthy to be reunited to the Dear object of my Love in that better world where I trust he is now receiving the reward of his Virtues."

Copied from a Newspaper, 1809.

THE following extract from a Newspaper of the day describes Lord Harcourt's character in the quaint manner which then prevailed:—

"EARL HARCOURT.

"THE character of this venerable Nobleman requires more than a mere recollection of his death. He was distinguished for those virtues and that dignified conduct which we hope will always characterize the chief body of the British Nobility, whatever may be the dissipation of the times. He was a liberal and enlightened patron of the arts, and was no inconsiderable proficient in painting; but the great feature of his character was benevolence, and the poor, but particularly those in the neighbourhood of Nuneham, his Lordship's seat in Oxfordshire, have, for a long period, derived from him encouragement and support. His private conduct was marked by gentleness and affability, but with the firmness of good sense. He was an elegant scholar, and had the advantage of being under the private tuition of M^{r}. Whitehead the poet, with whom he

made a tour over various parts of Europe. His Majesty has lost one of his best subjects, and the British Nobility one of its most respectable ornaments, in the death of this valuable nobleman.

"The beautiful seat at Nuneham descends to his Lordship's brother, whose character is of a congenial nature, and to whom the poor may confidently look for a Patron who will endeavour to compensate for the loss which they have suffered in their late benefactor."

Description of a Monument.

THE Description which follows was written by Lady Harcourt of a Monument which she erected in the Harcourt Chapel to the memory of her husband. The verses likewise were written by herself:—

DESCRIPTION OF A MONUMENT LATELY ERECTED AT STANTON HARCOURT.

"A RECUMBENT figure, as large as the life, reposes upon an Altar Tomb. It is dressed in robes; the head is supported by cushions; the Crest is at the feet; A mask had been taken off the face, from which that on the monument was modelled. It has been painted from a portrait by an eminent artist, and is thought a striking likeness. The Crest is repeated, in *alto relievo*, at the bottom of the tomb. On one side of it are three Gothic shield ; on the two end ones are the plain Harcourt arms; on that in the middle is inscribed,—

"Sacred to the Memory of
GEORGE SIMON HARCOURT,
Earl, Viscount, & Baron Harcourt, of Stanton Harcourt,
& Viscount Nuneham, of Nuneham Courtenay.
He was born August the 12th, 1736,
Married Septr. 26th, 1765, to Elizabeth, Daughter of
George Lord Vernon,
& died April the 20th, 1809.
Aged Seventy-two.

"The head of the tomb, and one side, are united to the wall of the Church by an enriched Gothic Screen, which rises considerably above the Figure. At the head there is a large Gothic Shield, with arms, and quarterings, Coronet, and supporters properly emblazoned, and on another shield of the same kind, on the side, is the following inscription :—

"Here rest, lov'd shade, amid thy kindred Race ;
And Oh ! may every Virtue guard the place ;
Virtues like those thy blameless life displayed,
Which gave Thee honours that shall never fade ;
For long the memory of thy liberal Heart,
Thy open temper that disdain'd all art,
The steady principles, the love of Truth,
That mark'd thy conduct from thy earliest youth,
The pure religion that adorn'd thy mind,
Thy warm benevolence to all Mankind,
Thy fond affection for the chosen few
Who shar'd thy friendship, and its value knew,

Shall deep engraven in each bosom dwell,
And frequent sighs the Dear remembrance tell.
Yet Holy Faith an humble hope may give,
With Thee again in happier Realms to live,
Where she, whose sorrowing Heart this tribute pays,
And bids this sculptur'd Stone record thy praise,
Each fear subdued, each painful trial o'er,
With Thee may Heaven's Eternal Lord adore."

Memoir of Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt.

ELIZABETH, Countess Harcourt, was born in the year 1746. She was the eldest child of the third marriage of her father, George, first Lord Vernon. Lord Vernon was married firstly to Mary, sister and coheiress of Lord Howard of Effingham, by whom he had three sons and two daughters; secondly, to Mary, daughter of Sir William Lee of Hartwell, by whom he had no family; and thirdly, to Martha, sister, and eventually heiress, of Simon, Earl Harcourt. By his third marriage Lord Vernon had three sons and four daughters. The eldest of these daughters, Elizabeth, married, on the 26 of September, 1765, her first cousin, George Simon, Viscount Nuneham; whilst Edward, one of these sons—of whom more hereafter—became, eventually,

the heir, through his mother, of the Harcourt estates.

The course of these papers now takes us back to the period of Miss Vernon's marriage with her cousin. Dr. Addenbrooke, Dean of Lichfield, who was also Vicar of Sudbury, was the writer of the letters which follow.

From Dean Addenbrooke of Lichfield to Miss Vernon :—

"DEAR MISS VERNON,—Your letter gave me very great pleasure, both upon your account and my own. No one will rejoyce more in your happiness, and in that of the family, than I shall, and no one has more inducements to it. You and your friends must be highly pleased with this proposal; and as far as I am a judge of Lord N—— he has a very good understanding, and a great deal of good nature; which must necessarily make a good husband, where they meet with every amiable accomplishment in the Lady. You have, Madam, a very fair prospect before you, and I think I may be answerable for your improvement of it in ev'ry part of your conduct. I am sure no one can more sincerely wish you ev'ry thing that can contribute to make

you as happy as Mrs. Adams[a]—you need not desire more.

"We were very impatient to see you all in the country, but you have made so very good an excuse for not coming down at present, that those few who know it are quite satisfied with the delay, tho' the accounts in the papers make us wish for your leaving that riotous town as soon as you can; but love has only one fear, and overlooks ev'ry other danger. We live here in great composure, without any apprehensions of mobs and tumults, and pay our formal visits in peace. Our amusements are not in the highest taste, but we return to our own homes without being insulted; and this, tho' it will scarcely be called living, makes us eat and sleep with great serenity.

"My wife desires me to express her joy in this affair, in the strongest manner, and to send you ev'ry wish of happiness that she can invent.

"I am, Madam,

"Your most obedient

"Humble Servant,

"J. ADDENBROOKE.

"Mr. Edward[b] is very well, and desires his duty

[a] Mr. Adams afterwards took his mother's name of Anson. He was created Lord Anson, and his son became Earl of Lichfield. Mrs. Adams was daughter of the first Lord Vernon by his first marriage, and half-sister of Lady Nuneham.

[b] Lady Nuneham's brother, afterwards Archbishop of York.

and love. I have not yet inform'd him that he is in a fair way of having another brother.

"Be pleas'd to make our duty and compliments.

"*Sudbury, May* 22, 1765."

From Dean Addenbrooke of Lichfield to Viscountess Nuneham:—

"WE are extremely obliged to Dear Lady Nuneham for her kind wishes of the season, and what gives them a real value, is our assurance of the sincerity of them. We have had so many instances of friendship and good nature from her that there can be no Suspition that they don't come from the heart. I think myself much honoured by your Ladyship's letter, and hope that I shall never forfeit that esteem which you, upon all occasions, have expressed for me. It gives me more pleasure than you will easily imagine.

"You have a great loss of Ld Harcourt's company, and when I first heard of his going to France[c], concluded that Ld and Lady Nuneham would have attended him, and no one, I am sure, would have done the Honours of His Excellency's table better; but if the Country does not agree with Ld Nuneham, there can't be a better reason for staying at home.

[c] Lord Harcourt was appointed Ambassador to France, 1768.

"Wherever you are my best wishes will always attend you both, whether you are providing for your family at Leicester House, or feeding the hungry at Nuneham; but amidst these pleasures, I desire that Sudbury may not escape you once a year at least. What resolutions are form'd there at present are not favourable for a London journey. My Lord seems determined against it, but he will, you know, sometimes change his opinion, and I think you will see them in Town, tho' perhaps not so early as usual. They are all very well, but my Lord still claims the privilege of complaining, tho' he never look'd better. It has given me a particular pleasure to see your brother[d] once more at Sudbury. He is in good health and spirits, and seems entirely to enjoy the place and the company; and I imagine that tho' Mrs. Vernon durst not venture to come at this time of the year, that there is a design of paying them a visit in Glamorganshire this summer. He and the lively Colonel leave this Place on Saturday, and stay two nights with Mrs. Adams, and propose to dine in London on Tuesday next.

"You will oftener see your good-natur'd little Brother Edward. He is design'd for Westminster at Lady day, and seems very desirous to be there

[d] Lord Vernon's eldest son, born 1733, married 1757, to the only daughter and heiress of Lord Mansell.

as soon as he can. He'll do very well, I think, wherever he is.

"My Wife, who has not been very well all this winter, is now much better, and desires to join in the sincerest wishes of many and happy years to Lord and Lady Nuneham, with, Madam,

"Your most obliged and
"Most obedient
"Humble Servant,
"J. ADDENBROOKE.

"*Sudbury, Jan.* 12, 1769."

Letters from Viscountess Nuneham.

AFTER their marriage Lord and Lady Nuneham went abroad, and remained for some time out of England. It was during that period that the following letters were written by Lady Nuneham to her mother and sister.

From Elizabeth, Viscountess Nuneham, to her mother, Lady Vernon :—

"*Liege*, 1766.

"My Dearest Mother,—As you was so kind as to desire to hear from me very often, I again take up my pen to trouble you with a letter, which I hope will find yourself, my dear Father, &c., in perfect health. We are vastly well ; I don't believe you would know my Lord again, his looks and spirits are so much altered for the better, which you will easily believe makes me excessively happy. I continue very much pleased with this place, and the method in which I pass my time. I do not mix a great deal with the company here, for I am unfashionable enough to prefer the society of my husband and an agreable friend, to

the Balls, Plays, Courts, and assemblys, &c., with which this place abounds : I was indeed at two Balls last week, and danced a good deal at both ; but when I shall go again I don't know, for this weather (tho' not equal to what I have felt in England at this time of year) is nevertheless too hot to make dancing either a pleasure or a wholesome exercise ; I am grown too old to like Dancing for Dancing sake, and think in a fine evening a walk upon these delightful mountains much pleasanter than hopping about a dirty hot room with people I know so little of ; tho' I must say they have all been excessively polite to me in every respect, and some of them are very agreable and pleasing. Those whom I like best, and with whom I pass most of my time, are the Princess Poniatowsky, M^me^ de Bentheim, M^me^ d'Harrack, M^rs^. Cressiner, who is the only English lady that it is possible to have any connection with, and tho' last, not least in my love, M^me^ de Blanchard, who is one of the most intimate friends Lady Spencer has, and is very like her both in person and manner ; they used to be very much together the different times that Lord Spencer has been abroad.

"M^me^ de Blanchard has something in her appearance that interests one at first sight ; her bad health and other misfortunes have given her an air of melancholy, which one may at times premise is not natural to her who is Chanoiness of Neuss,

which is a kind of convent for persons of the first distinction only; as before they are admitted into it they are obliged to prove that their families, both of their fathers' and mothers' side, have not had one mesalliance for six hundred years; they are obliged to reside in the Chapter, as they call it, a certain time in every year, for the rest they are at liberty to do what they please; they wear no particular dress except a broad ribbon put on like those the Knights of the Garter wear in England; either red, blue, green, purple, or white, some embroidered with gold or silver and some not, according to the different chapters: they are at liberty to quit the Chapter and marry if they please, but if they do they forfeit their salary, which, at some of those which are the best endowed, amounts to Sixty Pounds a year; this is looked upon as so great a thing, that many of the German Princes are very glad to have their daughters Chanoinesses, in order to secure a provision for them.

"To us English this appears extraordinary, as we should think sixty pounds a year very little to find a person in clothes, food, servants, and in short everything but Lodging. Some of them, provided their friends are very rich indeed, receive an additional allowance from them of ten, fifteen or twenty pounds a year, and that enables them to live splendidly. The Abbesses of these Convents

or Chapters have sometimes 5, 6, or £700 a year; but then they are obliged to declare against marriage, and take vows never to leave the Convent; the children of great people are often educated here, and afterwards become Chanoinesses. If a Prince or nobleman has several daughters they are very happy to obtain the ribbon for such as are plain, because, as they have no fortunes, they would have little chance of marrying suitable to their rank, and one mesalliance is such a devilment to a family that they don't recover it under 600 years. Mme de Blanchart has a sister who might in point of fortune have been very greatly married to an English gentleman, but her friends, who in fortune and pride are not unlike the Baron in Candide, absolutely refused it, because he wanted at least a hundred quarterings.

"Perhaps I may have tired you with this long history, but I wish to make my letters as much worth reading as I can, by giving accounts in them of such customs and things as I find most different from ours in England. I can't help wishing we had something like these Chapters in England, especially for such young people who are unfortunate enough to lose their parents; as it would secure them a very good education while they were children, and when they were grown up would be a reputable place for them to reside in till they married; and, tho' the income is trifling,

it would to a small fortune be a comfortable addition.

"We have lately been a good deal engaged in dining out, which I don't like at all, as the dinners are very bad and very formal. We dined the other day at Lord and Lady Roseberry's, who, except the Cressiners and Lady Powerscourt, are the only English familys of any fashion. The latter I don't know more than formal visiting, the middlemost I like, and the first I dislike extremely. I had yesterday a letter from Harry, and had the satisfaction of finding that he was well after his journey. I am sorry to find my paper so near full, as I know no pleasanter moments than those I pass in conversing even in this manner with my Dearest Mother. Of this I hope you are convinced, and also that I shall never cease to be your most dutiful and affec^{t} Daughter. My Lord joins with me in duty to yourself and my Father, and in love and comp^{t} as due."

From Viscountess Nuneham to her sister, the Hon. Miss Vernon :—

"*Spa, June the 20th.*

"MY DEAREST KATE,—I was very happy to receive a letter from you at Bruxelles, and to hear so good an account of the health of my dear Father and Mother. I was also very glad to hear that Patty had performed her journey so

well, and hope by this time her cough has quite left her. I have never received my Mother's letter, which has been a great disappointment to me, but hope to hear from her very soon.

"I will now resume my Journal, having first told you that I should have written to you from Bruxelles if I had not been too much hurried to find time. I concluded my last letter at Ghent. We left that place the morning after, and got to Bruxelles in good time. There we found Lord Robert Spencer, who almost lived with us the three days we stayed. The day after we came to Bruxelles, viz^{t} Monday, we passed the morning in visiting some of the Churches, many of which are well worth seeing. We afterwards went to some shops, and then returned home to dinner. After dinner I was visited by the Princess la Bonnanville, the Mesdames D'Urse (who though unmarried are of too high a rank to be called Mademoiselle), Madame de Bentheim (the same who directed the setting of my Diamonds), the Duke D'Urse, and lastly M^{rs}. Chetwynde of Haywood Park, who was in her usual good spirits, and was really of more use to us than any of the others, as she told us what people we might venture to employ and at what shops we should be least imposed upon. As soon as they were gone we went to the Bequinage Convent to buy Lace, and from thence to the Play.

"Tuesday we went in the morning to the Palace, which I thought by far the most worth seeing of any thing I had seen since I left England. The first room however that was worth sending you an account of is Prince Charles of Lorrain's Indian Closet. It is hung in the prettiest taste imaginable with curious Indian pictures, and the rest of the furniture is made to suit them. From thence we passed through his bed chamber, furnished with yellow and silver, into the Japan room, the walls of which are wainscotted with the finest old Japan: the chairs are of the same; on them are placed Chinese figures large as the life and richly dressed in the habits of their Country; these figures are so well executed that they seem like real people inhabiting the room. Every kind of curiosity of Japan, china, agates, and other precious stones, mother of pearl, ivory, ebony, gold, silver, &c., &c., are to be seen in this room, so well arranged as to appear placed there rather for use as parts of the furniture of the room than for ornament or show.

"Leaving this delightful room, we passed through one hung with the pictures of all the celebrated French, German, and Austrian beauties, into a long Gallery, where I shall detain you a considerable time. At the upper end of it there is, enclosed in a large glass case, the invaluable Cabinet of the famous Christina, Queen of

Sweden. The solid part of it is composed of gold, ivory, and mother of pearl inlaid; and emeralds, sapphires, amethysts, rubies, pearls, agates, cornelians, jaspers, &c., &c., are all employed to ornament it. I never saw so fine a piece of workmanship, and yet, beautiful and magnificent as this was, my attention was soon drawn away from it by what appeared to me still more curious; this was another very large glass case in the corner of the Gallery, divided into an infinite number of little rooms, and containing, in miniature, all the Trades and the Instruments used in them that are known in any part of the world; from the shearing the sheep to the making up the cloth in the coat; from the digging gold out of the mine to the coining it into money, &c., &c.

"The Prince gave immense rewards to each Mechanic who was famous in his profession, on condition that they should make him in miniature the exact representation of their tools and the method of using them. You will not be able to understand any thing from the very bad manner in which I have described this Machine, but, when we meet, I hope to give you a clearer account by word of mouth than I have done upon paper. The rest of this Gallery is not much unlike the British Museum, glass cases go all round it containing every sort of Bird, Fish,

and Insect, all so well preserved as to seem alive. There is likewise, in this room, a fine collection of Shells, petrefactions, Fossils, &c. Here I also saw a small wax figure, the face of which was taken off that of the little Dwarf who belonged to the King of Poland; the figure was made exactly of his size, and dressed in his clothes. I am very certain it was not by an inch so tall as Master Adams[a], though the man, at the time the figure was made, was 25. I never saw so pretty a little creature, the face was beautiful and not too large for the figure, which is seldom the case with Dwarfs.

"I fancy you will now be glad to leave the Gallery, and, therefore, will conduct you into a room furnished with every kind of Musical Instrument. As you were not there to play upon any of them I was not tempted to stay long there; I, therefore, left the Palace penetrated with admiration for a Prince who, adored by his subjects, passes his whole time in doing them good. He resigns all the pomp and parade of Royalty in order to have it more in his power to indulge the benevolence of his heart in the most noble acts of charity; the being unhappy is sufficient to entitle any one, however mean their situation, to his protection; from the moment he knows their misfortunes he takes all the care the most

[a] Afterwards Earl of Lichfield.

tender parent can do to put an end to them. His study is to put a stop to all luxury in his Court, and nobody can displease him more than by coming to his Drawing room in any thing fine. In order to encourage Industry he has himself learnt almost every trade, and works at them. I myself saw a picture frame in papier maché that he had just finished, and a chair that he was about, both extremely well done. After having seen the Palace, we had but just time to see some fine Tapestry in the Town Hall, and then went home to dress. After dinner we went to the play. The Duke D'Urse lent us his box upon the stage, so that I heard very well and was much entertained. From the play we went to supper at the Duke D'Urse's; there we found the Prince and Princess de Ligne, the reigning Count and Countess de Bentheim, the Duke and Duchess D'Arambergh, the Mesdames D'Urse and Grobandon, and Lord Robert Spencer. We played at cards before and after supper, and it was really very agreeable.

"The next morning we left Bruxelles, dined at Louvain, and lay at S[t]. Tron. The next day we had not time to eat any other dinner than some cold meat in the coach, for the roads are so bad, that it made a journey of 32 miles almost too much for a day: we were above eight hours going the last 16 miles. However, at last we

reached this place safe and well last night. I can give you no account of this place, for, having dedicated the morning to giving my dear friends at Sudbury an account of myself, I have as yet seen nothing. My paper now forces me to subscribe myself, my Dear Kitty,

"Your truly affectionate sister.

"I shall write to my mother the Post after next. I wish the Post here was more certain, and that the letters were not so long in going.

"You inquire after the Bull at Lisle, the Marquis de Hautfeville was not there, so I escaped it."

From Viscountess Nuneham to her sister, the Hon. Miss Vernon:—

"MY DEAR KITTY,—You will, I imagine, receive this letter about the eleventh of September, and I must beg of you to accept my Lord's and my own congratulations and sincere good wishes to you upon that day; may every return of it be happy, and may you, in the future years of your life, receive as much satisfaction yourself, and impart as much to your friends as you have hitherto done.

"I must now return you my thanks for your letters and kind congratulations upon my Dear Lord's Birthday. Truly sensible of my happiness in him, that day will always give me pleasure, and you could no way so pleasingly testify your affection to me as by so kindly remembering him. He charges me to give you his love and best thanks. I imagine you are by this time returned from your Cheshire expedition, and dare say you was much pleased with it My mother has, I hope, received a letter I wrote her a few days ago. Did you receive one from me about a month or five weeks since? I hope none of my letters are lost, and then I am sure my dear friends at Sudbury will rather complain of hearing too often than too seldom from me. As to my other correspondents, I cannot brag of writing to *them* often; indeed here it is very difficult to find any time for writing, notwithstanding I get up between five and six every morning.

"You will wonder how I employ myself, and I can give no account but that I am convinced there is not above five minutes in each day. In my letter to my Mother I sent you word that you should have a full account of the Ceremonies I saw at Liege, connected with two young ladies taking the Veil. We proceeded between eight and nine to the Church of S^{t}. Sepulchre, where, by the interest of Lord Stourton, we were seated in the place belonging to the Abbess, which is open on one side to the Church, on the other to the choir where the Nuns sit. At nine the procession began: the inferior priests dressed in white bearing tapers and Crucifixes; then the Bishop in his robes of

white satin, richly embroidered with gold, silver, and coloured flowers, a large Cross in his hand, Priests on each side of him with tapers; then came two girls very prettily dressed in white, with chaplets of flowers on their heads and nosegays in their hands, strewing flowers; then followed a third girl, dressed like the others, bearing the Noviciate's Crown; then came the first Noviciate, Miss Berringer, led by Lord Stourton. She was dressed in a rich blue and silver, with a very large hoop, and a great quantity of Jewels; the little girls that belonged to the second Noviciate followed her, dressed and walking like the former. Miss Sims, the second Noviciate, was led by Lord Arundel; she was also full dressed in rose colour and silver, and had a still greater quantity of Jewels. Each Noviciate bore in her hand a lighted taper of a prodigious size; their friends, the inferior Priests, persons belonging to the convent, &c., closed the procession; the whole Church was lighted up, and a vast quantity of lamps, in which incense was burnt, added to the perfume of the flowers, was delightful.

"The Altars (for in Catholic Churches there are several) were decorated with rich ornaments in gold, silver, precious stones, &c. Garlands of flowers were hung up all about the Church. The procession proceeded to the Altar, where they prostrated themselves, and then the Bishop asked

the two young ladies what they wanted; they replied, to dedicate themselves to God: he again asked whether it was by their own free choice, or if their Parents constrained them: they answered that they had not formed their resolution without considering, and that they were convinced there was no other situation that could be happy.

"High Mass was then performed, after which a Friar of the Mimim Order preached a long extempore sermon, in which he complimented the young ladies upon their glorious resolution of leaving the world; observing that these were not the melancholy victims who were sacrificed by the cruelty or avarice of their parents, these were the willing servants of their Saviour, who had ambition enough to pretend to the honour of espousing Him, and who had received grace enough to exchange empty for real happiness. He then set forth the various unhappinesses that are to be met with in the world, such as bad husbands, disobedient children, unkind relations, false friends, loss of fortune, and a thousand other things. He then strongly recommended implicit obedience to their Confessor and the Abbess, and the practice of Virtue in general; then, seeming to recollect himself, he said he had forgot that he was addressing himself to English Ladies, and that he had the honour of speaking before British auditors, noble by their births, and noble by their

actions; some of whom (meaning the Lords Stourton and Arundel) had left their own happy country to grace that ceremony with their presence, and to assist at it. He then made a compliment to the Nation in general, extolling the happiness of a Kingdom where all the men were brave, and all the women virtuous. He then talked much of the glorious English saint (meaning the pretender's father) who had, for the sake of his religion, been contented to resign his Crown. He afterwards gave the two Noviciates some rules for their conduct in the Convent, and so concluded.

"The sermon was in French, the rest of the service in Latin. The two young ladies then received the Sacrament, which is administered very differently from ours. Two boys, in white, held a long kind of table cloth under the chins of the two ladies; the Bishop then took a Wafer in each hand, and after having three times lifted it up into the air, music playing all the time, he laid one upon each of their tongues; he then dipped his finger in the Wine, and touched their mouths with it. This being done, some more praying and Masses were said and sung; the voices of many of the Nuns, as well as the music, was very fine.

"The procession now moved forward to the door of the Convent in much the same order as before, and then the Noviciates, taking the Cross, knocked

at that door which they were never again to go out of, and asked admittance: the Abbess and Nuns received them; they then made a low curtsey to the Lords who had acted as their fathers, and bid adieu for ever to the world.

"We now turned ourselves round to the side of the Dogsull that was open to the Choir, to see the procession of the sisterhood; three of the lay sisters, in white habits, came first, the middle one bearing the Cross, the other two large lighted tapers; then came the Nuns, two and two, with large tapers, also the two Noviciates with tapers in one hand and Crucifixes in the other. They all prostrated themselves before the Altar, and then the Nuns ranged themselves in their stalls on each side: the Choir and Miss Berringer and Miss Sims came forward to the bar of the Dogsull, into which the Priests were now come, a chair for the Abbess being placed close to it on the other side: here Miss Berringer first kneeled down, Miss Sims employing herself in the mean time in praying: the Bishop then took a pair of scissors from one of the Nuns, and cutting off a lock of Miss Berringer's hair, burnt it in the taper she held in her hand: two of the Nuns then came forward and assisted her in undressing herself, which she did with a courage and resolution beyond what I could have imagined. She had a severe smile upon her countenance, and an unaffected vivacity and content-

ment in her eyes the whole time: her voice never faltered, nor did her hand tremble as she looked with a kind of contempt upon all the ornaments she took off; but when the Abbess held out to her the gown of coarse black serge, she snatched it to her, and, looking up to Heaven, kissed it with a transport impossible to be described.

"The dress consisted of a petticoat with a loose gown that came down to the wrists, and was tied about the waist with a crimson cord; the Cross, made in crimson cloth, was sewed upon the left side; a piece of black leather was tied round her neck, from which hung a little Crucifix; she had a string of beads by her side; upon her neck a kind of white handkerchief; mightily neatly placed upon her head a sort of close dress that could not properly be called a cap and yet was one; and over all a large white veil, upon which they put a Crown, or rather Garland, of flowers. This being done, Miss Berringer, or rather Sister Stanislaus (for so she was for the future to be called), retired from the Dogsull, and Miss Sims went through the same ceremonies with equal cheerfulness; she took the name of Constantia on account of her perseverance, for she had twice before attempted to take the Veil, and had each time been obliged to return to her friends on account of her health, which was not strong enough to go through the necessary austerities.

"With her friends she lived in the gayest manner imaginable, and enjoyed it; but, as soon as her health was re-established, insisted upon returning to the Convent. Both the young Nuns being dressed they sung an Anthem, accompanied by very fine Church music, the rest joining in the chorus; afterwards a few prayers were said, and then, the Bishop blessing them, the ceremony concluded after having lasted three hours. These two young Nuns then knelt down to the Abbess, an amiable and venerable old woman. She raised and embraced them, and they then went round and first embraced all the other Nuns, and then the pensioners who had been their former companions, one of whom was sister to Miss Sims, as one of the Nuns is to Miss Berringer. They then came forward and thanked us for the honour we had done them in being present upon that occasion, and, saying we must be in need of refreshment, begged we would go down to the parlour grate and breakfast with them there. We willingly accepted the invitation, and went down; a moment after, they, with the Abbess and some other of the Nuns, appeared at the grate, which they threw open, so that we, in a manner, sat in the same room.

"They gave us tea, coffee, chocolate, and a thousand different kinds of cakes, biscuits, &c., all admirably good. We sat with them an hour,

and they joined in a very cheerful, agreeable conversation.

"We then quitted them and returned to dine at Chande Fontaine in our way hither, much pleased with the manner in which we had passed our morning, though I own I was two or three times, notwithstanding the contentment they expressed, very near shedding tears. Miss Berringer is about sixteen, and excessively pretty; appears of a lively turn; she is related to Miss Poole. Miss Sims is eight and twenty, not handsome, but a very fine figure, and of a more serious disposition. She may have made this way of life her choice by reflection; but I fear the other, not being old enough to have thought seriously, may repent, however I hope she will not. I have sent you the most exact account I could, as I know you are a little curious, and the kind of person to be amused by a history of this kind. In return I shall expect a full account of all you see and do at Derby Races, and of all the conquests you make there. Tell Patty and Anne I will write to them in a few days. I have received my Father's letter, and will soon thank him for it. Our duty to him and my Mother. We join in love and compliments as due. I doubt if you will be able to read all this.

"Adieu, my dear Kate,

"Your most affectionate Sister."

A break now occurs of some years in Lady Nuneham's letters. Those that follow were written from Ireland, during a visit paid by Lord and Lady Nuneham to Lord Harcourt, in the year 1773.

From Viscountess Nuneham to her mother, Lady Vernon:—

"*Dublin Castle, 15th October.*

"MY DEAREST MOTHER,—Nothing ever was so provoking as these contrary winds. Five Mails at this moment are due, and I am sure some of them have letters from you. I have only had one since I left Sudbury, and that letter was dated the 30th of September. Judge of my impatience. If this is to happen often I shall not be very well contented with my situation here, and on your side you will (from not knowing the cause) wonder, and perhaps be uneasy, at my long silence, for though I have written three times I fancy only my first letter has reached you. However that would tranquillize you with regard to my safety. I have not an idea when I shall be able to send this, as there is not a packet boat on this side the water. However, as I cannot always command my time, I will write a little whenever I can and send it off the first opportunity. Lord Harcourt seems so happy to have

us with him, and every body takes so much pains to make our being here agreeable to us, that we should be very ungrateful not to be pleased, and could I forget those I have left in England, I really should be very well satisfied with my situation. I wrote you word that my apartments were very good; the Lord Lieutenant's are excellent, and the State apartments fine rooms; that where the Balls are, in particular, appears twice as big as that at St. James's. I cannot say they are furnished in very good taste, but a vast deal of heavy gilding, &c., gives them an air of magnificence.

"The whole of the Castle makes a vast pile of irregular building, and, with the Garden and different Courts belonging to it, covers a great space of ground. I sent my Father Lord Harcourt's speech; he pronounced it with great propriety. I do not know that I ever felt more than at the moment he began, and after he left the House I was almost overset with pleasure by the handsome things that were said of him by the Lords who moved for the address, a copy of which I will send you. The House of Lords is a fine building, ornamented with pillars, &c., on the outside, and in the inside with Tapestry representing the Battle of the Boyne. Lady Cavendish went with me there. I thought it a proper compliment to pay to my dear Father's

old friend to make my first public appearance with his wife, and she and Sir Harry seemed much flattered by it. There was a Ball that night to which the Lord Lieutenant comes in much greater a state than the King. He enters at the door opposite to the Chair of State; the moment he appears the Company rises and the music begins to play a march; he walks up the room preceded by his Pages, Aides-de-Camp, and the Officers of his household, two and two; and the moment he is seated the Minuets begin. You know I never dance them, but I broke my resolution about Country dances, for Lord Kildare asked me, and I did not think it right to refuse him.

"The newspapers told you I was dressed in the manufactures of Ireland; it pleased, I find, very much as well with the people of fashion as with the mob, who expressed their approbation very strongly as I passed through them on Thursday. I received the visits of an infinite number of persons in the State apartments, and they were presented, one after another, so fast that I much fear I shall not recollect half of them when I see them again. It is settled that we are to have a Ball every Tuesday, and a Drawing-room every Friday, but of them it is to be one week in the Lord Lieutenant's name, and the other in mine. It was thought right that I should have a fixed

day, and twice in the week would be too much for people to come to the Castle; but by Lord Harcourt giving up every other Friday to me the whole is very well accommodated. There will be the usual number of public nights, and the Ladies will like it better, as the night that is called mine they can come in sashes. They paid me the compliment of asking whether they should not come in Court dresses, but you may imagine I declined it. The attention I receive is beyond what I could have imagined, and they really seem so well inclined to be pleased with me, that I begin to think it must be my own fault if I do not succeed.

"The person I see most of in private is an English lady who lives in the Castle; she is wife to the first Secretary, and though she has passed twenty years in this country, and, from her husband's situation, has been always connected with the different Lord Lieutenants and their families, from her prudent and amiable conduct has not an enemy in it. She is sensible, good humoured, and of a very obliging disposition, and I can consult her upon any little point without fear of being misled: but my great oracle is Sir John Hasler, Gentleman Usher; he is as well read in all forms as the late Lord Delawarr, and would be miserable if any body belonging to the Castle walked to the right when they ought to walk to

the left: he arranges all my visits, introduced all my Company to me the other night, and is preparing a list of them, with an account of the connections of each family, that will be a great assistance to me in furnishing me with proper conversation; in short, he, like Mrs. Waite, is of so very obliging a turn that there is no trouble he is not ready to take if he can be of the least use. Of the other persons in the family I find Mr. Hamilton very agreeable; Mr. Buchanan seems a very worthy man; Mr. Swan, you know, I liked when he was in England; Mr. Miller is (when one really *knows* him, which is not easy, for I had been acquainted with him five years without guessing him to have sense) very pleasing and very clever. As to Mr. Blaquiere and Mr. Weston you know my sentiments of them.

"As these are the persons I have chiefly lived with, I was willing to give you an idea of them: hereafter I may bring you acquainted with other characters, but as yet it is too early for me to pretend to judge of them. There are some good Streets and fine Houses in Dublin, but so intermixed with bad ones that they appear to great disadvantage, and in point of furniture, what I have yet seen falls very short of the elegance of our modern London Houses. Provisions of all sorts are good, in great plenty, and very reasonable; the Fish and Poultry, in particular, are

very superior to what we have in England. To-morrow we go to S^{t}. Woolstens, where I will continue my letter."

"*St. Woolstens, October 17th.*

"As I knew I could not send my letter yesterday I did not continue it. Indeed, I was willing to give as much of my time to the viewing the beauties of this lovely spot as possible. Arcadia could scarcely produce any thing to equal it. Imagine to yourself the finest inequalities of ground; banks covered with hanging woods on each side of a valley through which the Liffey runs in a broad channel; it is clear and rapid, and eternally broke by pieces of rock, over some of which it falls in very considerable cascades; M^{r}. Conelly's House and place, which seems fine, terminates the view to the left; to the right you have a Paper Mill and some Cottages; the walks are good; and this lovely scene is varied by some lawns and the remains of an old Convent which stands in the garden; the House is good, large enough, and the furniture neat.

"I do think Lord Harcourt has had surprising good fortune to get such a place, for it really unites the beauties of Haikfall and Dovedale. It is scarce two hours' drive from town, through the Phœnix Park, and along the banks of the Liffey, which are very fine and almost covered

with woods and villas; indeed I think the beauty of its environs makes amends for the badness of the suburbs, which I had not seen till yesterday, and which for dirt, smells, and the appearance of misery, exceed all description; even on the road to this place, beautiful as it is and near to the Capital, one sees cabins that a good farmer in England would hardly put his hogs into, and yet these are inhabited by large families. I find the air here much warmer than in England, but there is an unpleasant weight in it; however I ought not to find fault with it, for I am as well as possible, and it even agrees with my Lord. We walked to-day to see Leslip, a sweet place about a mile from hence, where Lady Bunyan and Lady Massereen live. To-morrow we return to Dublin, which I am sorry for, as I like being here extremely.

"Sir John Hasler, M^{r}. Miller, M^{r}. Weston, M^{r}. Swan, and Major Buchanan are with us. Sir John passed twenty-six years of his life in visiting almost every Country in Europe, and some in Asia and Africa; he was employed two years in redeeming slaves in the Emperor of Morocco's dominions, and he knows a thousand histories that would furnish good materials for a Novel writer; and as he is always ready to relate them, he is an amusing person to have with one. Patty would enjoy him. I must now

bid you good night, but I am not a little vexed to see another day finished without the arrival of a Mail; if one had, we should have had the letters, as an express was ordered to set out instantly with them. I will finish this to-morrow.

"*October* 18*th.*

"As I have a spare five minutes while breakfast is preparing I will fill my paper. I forgot to tell you I had a visit from M^r^. George Vernon and his daughter the other morning; she is a good fine girl."

From Viscountess Nuneham to her mother, Lady Vernon:—

"*November* 8.

"MY DEAREST MOTHER,—If you were less well acquainted with my heart I would attempt to tell you how much delight your letters give me, but knowing me so well as you do, you cannot doubt that in your absence the hearing from you is the greatest pleasure I can have. I will begin by answering all your questions. First then M^rs^. Waite is between forty and fifty, with good sence and an excellent heart; it may sound vain, but I really believe, short as our connection has been, she is attached to me; at least I am sure that she devotes every moment of her time to the making me pass mine as well as I can. Whenever the gentlemen dine out I have an instant invitation

to her house, and she has a pretty little Villa about two miles from town, where I may go and walk whenever I please; this will be a resource to me, for I am sorry to say we have little chance of getting even one day at S^t^. Woolstens before Christmas, for what with Levees, Balls, Drawing-rooms, and great Dinners, there is hardly a day in the week unoccupied.

"I come next to the Balls: at the end of the first Country Dance the Lord Lieutenant rises and speaks to some of the first people, and then retires about eleven. I generally stay about half an hour, or sometimes an hour, after him, but never dance more than four dances. The company may stay as long as they please, and there is a side board in another room for them. I fixed eight o'clock as the hour I liked to have the Company begin coming of my public night, and at that time go into the Drawing-room. Sir John stands by me and presents every person as they come in. I find something (I believe generally very foolish) to say to each, and, during the course of the night, take an opportunity of speaking to them again by going round the rooms when I think every body is come in.

"Those who choose to play have it in their power, as there are always several card tables in the presence chamber, and people make their own parties. I do not play on account of the number

of people that are presented, for as the town fills by degrees there are every night many I have not seen before. About eleven most people are gone, and I retire into my room. We have been but once at the Play: the Lord Lieutenant's box is decorated with his Crest and other ornaments. I have the one facing him, and am to take the principal Ladies, by turns, with me. Lord Nuneham appears at all the public nights, and goes wherever he is asked, except to suppers, which he declines; indeed the method here of dining, spending the evening, and supping at the same place, is rather a violent measure. Friday we had a party of that sort at Sir Harry Cavendish's. I played at cards there for the first time since my arrival. My dear Father, who rather holds my genius for cards in contempt, will laugh when he hears that it had been so strongly reported here that I loved cards so much and played so deep, that people were preparing themselves for me, and putting a double sum in their card purses; this idea, however, is pretty well laid aside, and as they have found out that I like dancing, several Balls are preparing, and some have already been given of which I was the Heroine.

"This I like very well, for, with people one does not know, dancing takes off the form, and not only supplies conversation for the time, but helps it on for two or three days afterwards; indeed nothing

can be more obliging than the disposition of the people here, and they are eager to seize every means of making this place agreeable to us. In point of amusement and dissipation it certainly is at least equal to London, but my friends are absent, and that is a great take off, indeed to me it is everything.

"Pray tell Kitty she would have been charmed to have seen Lord Nuneham and me last Thursday dressed up in orange colour Ribbons in honour of King William. It seems odd to keep the birthday of a man who has been dead these seventy years, but his memory is so adored here that they think it impossible to pay him too much respect. The Lord Lieutenant goes in state with his attendants and Guards, followed by the Lord Mayor and aldermen in their formalities, by the Peers, Commons, &c., in their coaches, the Horses adorned with orange favours, and drives in procession round King William's statue. At night there is a Ball, at which all the Court, and indeed most other people, appear with at least a favour of orange colour. That I might be sure of being right I was dressed in a new gown of the manufacture of the country, and as much orange as I could put on, and I am told the compliment pleased. Just at present I believe I am very popular; it shall not be my fault if it does not last, but public favour is little to be relied on.

Lord Harcourt enjoys a great share of it; there was such a majority in the House the other day as has never been known to happen before. I wish all this may continue, as it makes his situation easy and happy.

"I have always forgot to mention that I gave the papers my Father put into my hands to Colonel Blaquiere, who told me it was intended that Mr. Townshend should be provided for; that a method had actually been pointed out, but had not met with the approbation of the higher powers; that in the common course of things it would probably be a twelvemonth before the scheme would be put into execution, though, if my Father made a point of it, something might perhaps be done sooner. I said I believed my Father's humanity and wish to serve a family in distress was his sole motive for interesting himself in this affair, as I apprehended they were not personally known to him, and that I was sure he would not wish to distress Lord Harcourt by pressing him in their favour. Colonel Blaquiere has gained great credit by his speaking in the House; even the Opposition allow him the praise he deserves, and own they did not form such high expectations of him."

A break of four years here occurs in the

correspondence; during which time Lord Harcourt's tragic death has taken place, and Lady Nuneham has now become Lady Harcourt.

Letter from Viscountess Falmouth.

FROM Viscountess Falmouth to Countess Harcourt :—

"*August* 12, 1779.

"My dear Lady Harcourt's kind favour I rec'd, and am greatly oblig'd to her Ladyship for it. I have sent Mrs. Briton's account wrote out by her M.D., for she is very ill, and has been so ever since her arrival, from being so much fatigued with her journey, but I hope will soon be well again. If you approve of ten guineas for a present to Mrs. Briton, Lord Falmouth thinks we cannot give her less, but til I had your Ladyship's aprobation I said nothing of it; if you will give me the order on B's I will send for it and send it to her. I am sorry to be thus troublesome, an old woman's scrawl is not very fit to be seen but by so amiable a Lady, who is above criticising on 72, who cannt ware glasses, and must perform very ill. I could once do better, and even now cannot help flattering myself Lady Harcourt will over look all my faults, as they are not vices but misfortunes, and believe me when I assure her I have a true sense of her merits, and that I am

most affecty my dear Lady Harcourt's sincere Friend

"Maria Falmouth.

"I should have mentioned Mrs. Briton got a Lady to go her halves in comg to Town, or it would have cost her double for the chaise."

Letter from the Countess of Effingham.

IN the year 1784, seven years after the death of Simon, Earl Harcourt, Lady Harcourt was appointed a Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Charlotte. George Simon, Lord Harcourt, and his wife had absented themselves from Court in a marked manner, owing to some slight which it was imagined had been passed upon Lord Harcourt's father. They were at last, however, persuaded to "pay their homage" at Windsor, and this advance was quickly followed by an offer of the Spanish Embassage to Lord Harcourt, and a Court appointment to his wife. The former offer was refused, but Lady Harcourt became a Lady of the Bedchamber, and her Lord was subsequently made Master of the Horse. This was the beginning of a lasting friendship—no less familiar word would be adequate—between

Lord and Lady Harcourt and their Royal Patrons.

From the Countess of Effingham to Countess Harcourt:—

"Dr MADAM,—I am commanded by the Queen to assure your Ladyship the pleasure she has in having the oppertunity of shewing the sense she had of the late Lord Harcourt's merit, and the real regard she feels towards your Ladyship, in consequence of which, the Queen takes this oppertunity to acquaint you she has done you the honour of appointing yr Ladysp one of Her Ladys of the Bedchamber. H. M. orders me to say, you may be presented any time convenient to you.

"I hope Dear Lady Harcourt will be assured no body can with more sincerity congratulate her on the present occasion than,

"Dr Madam,
"Your very affec
"and obedt Humе Servt,
"E. EFFINGHAM.

"*Queen's Lodge,*
"*Windsor, July ye 4th,* 1784."

Letter from the Countess of Holdernesse.

FROM the Countess of Holdernesse to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Deal Castle, July 11th*, 1784.

"DEAR MADAM,—It was with the greatest pleasure I heard of the Honour Her Majesty had confered upon your Ladyship, as I am sure you will be one to the Queen. I should have thought myself perticularly fortunate to have been in waiting, and to have had the Honour of introducing your Ladyship upon that occasion.

"In regard of the Prince's or Princesse's birthday being kept, there has been so many changes that it is impossible to gess what will be done this year, but no waiting is taken by us, only your Ladyship should be prepared to have a new sach in readiness in case you was sent for, as those things happen with very short notice. I don't know what was donne last year about the Prince of Walles's Birthday as I was absent. Princess Royal's certainly will be kept, and I have no doubt but your Ladyship will be there, and most likely Lodge at the Queen's House,

which will be a very good opportunity to make a visit to M^rss^. Schuellenberg and Hagadom ; the first I saw a great deal of while I was at Montpellar. I always made it a rule since I have belonged to the queen to call upon them now and then, and realy your Ladyship will find them very civil good kind of People.

"I hope your Ladyship will alow me to wait upon you and Lord Harcourt some other time, that I may see that fine Place with a little more sun shine. I can assure you I left it with y^e^ greatest regret, but perticularly all the amiable inhabitants of Nuneham.

"Since my arrival here we have enjoied most charming weather, which makes this place very pleasant; the Children are all much better since they came.

"May I beg your Ladyship to make my best compliments to Lord Harcourt,

"and believe me, Dear Madam,

"your Ladyship's

"most faithfull

"Humble Servant,

"M. HOLDERNESSE."

Letters from Mrs. Leveson Gower.

THE connection between the families of Harcourt and Evelyn has been noticed in a former Volume. The celebrated John Evelyn had five sons, of whom the third alone left any offspring; this son, whose name was also John, left a son of the same name, who was created a baronet, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to the Hon. Simon Harcourt. She was mother of Simon, Earl Harcourt. Her nephew, Charles Evelyn, was the grandfather of the orphans alluded to in the letters which follow. The misconduct of some of their race led to the disinheritance of the whole of the male heirs of old John Evelyn, by Sir Frederick Evelyn, who died in 1733. Sir Frederick left the entire Evelyn property unconditionally to his widow; Dame Evelyn, in a will bearing date 1814, devised the estates to the male descendants of a George Evelyn, who flourished about the year 1560, and from whom the great

John Evelyn was also descended. Failing male heirs of this line, the estates were to descend to the Editor of these Papers, as representing John Evelyn in the female line through Elizabeth Evelyn.

From Mrs. Leveson Gower to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Charles Street, 2nd June*, 1784.

"MRS. LEVESON presents her compliments to Lady Harcourt, and has the honour to return the accompt of the Evelyn fund. At the same time she is desired by the subscribers to add theirs and her thanks to her Ladyship for her kind and generous assistance bestowed on these orphans—such they were in effect; and, however well the subscribers might have wished them, without Lady Harcourt's most judicious and active interposition, their wishes would have been fruitless, and probably this unfortunate family might have been too low even to have attracted General Evelyn's legacy.

"Mrs. Leveson has very imperfectly expressed the sense they have of Lady Harcourt's goodness; she hopes she will long enjoy the sweet satisfaction of such true benevolence. Mrs. Brudenell desired Mrs. L. to say she was quite concerned not

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to have profitted by the honour Lady Harcourt intended her this morning."

To the Countess Harcourt :—

"*Admiralty, April 19th*, 1785.

"MADAM,—Your great goodness to the children of Mr. and Mrs. C. Evelyn makes it necessary that I should trouble your Ladyship with the following account; it comes from Mr. J. Evelyn, the only remaining son of Dr.—. Evelyn in Ireland, to whom the late Lord Harcourt was so friendly and kind whilst he was Lord Lieutenant. Mr. J. Evelyn has been a writer in India since the year 1769. From his private transactions I know him to be a most honorable character. General Evelyn desired me to recommend his nephew Mr. C. Evelyn, and your Ladyship will perceive by this account he seems to have been very attentive to this request. The date of his letter is Calcutta, 30th Nov. 1784.

"'It is with great concern I inform you of the 'death of your friend Charles Evelyn, which hap-'pened last April in his passage to Bussorah[a], 'where he was going to reside for two years, 'with an intention of learning the Persian lan-'guage. I did everything in my power to dissuade

[a] The Euphrates is tidal and navigable up to Bussorah. The climate is sufficiently healthy in the winter, but pestilential in the summer.

'him from this unfortunate voyage, apprehending 'the difficulties of his youth and inexperience 'might expose him to in a Country where the 'people are, from religious prejudices, apt to use 'Europeans with injustice and severity; but his 'resolution was fixed, and nothing could divert 'him from it.

"'He was a very promising young man, es-'teemed and beloved by all his acquaintance; for 'the satisfaction of his friends I shall administer 'to the estate, for having nothing to bequeath 'he left no will; the only effects I can discover 'are cloaths, and the remainder of a little money 'I advanced him for the expence of the voyage, 'and to support him in a Country where he might 'be distressed, and could not easily procure assist-'ance.'

"Though his Mother shewed herself to be very insensible to his real interest, and that of his family, yet the losing a promising son, and probably the most of the three, is always a most serious affliction. Your Ladyship will still have the goodness to reveal this event in a tender manner to her.

"I have not a notion if she still exists, or where. I conclude Mr. C. Evelyn cannot yet have benefitted by General Evelyn's legacy, and if there is any money owing to Mr. J. Evelyn in India, it should be reserved for him.

"I have the honour to be your Ladyship's most obliged and sincere

"F. LEVESON GOWER."

The writer of the above letters was Frances Boscawen, niece to Viscount Falmouth, and daughter of Admiral Boscawen and of Evelyn Glanville. She married, July 6, 1733, Admiral John Leveson, born in 1740, second son by his third marriage of John, 1st Earl Gower; the third surviving son of his father's first marriage was Granville Leveson, first Marquis of Stafford.

The subject of these letters, Charles Evelyn, was said to be the only respectable male member of his father's family. He was in the direct line of the Evelyns, baronets of Wotton. Had he lived he would probably have succeeded to his ancestral property. On his death, one of the Irish Evelyns, the son of Mr. John Evelyn of India, who behaved so generously to his kinsman in distress, was appointed, under Lady Evelyn's will, to represent the family. The present possessor of Wotton is his descendant.

Letters from Countess Harcourt.

THE letters which follow are from Lady Harcourt to her sister, Martha Vernon.

From Countess Harcourt to her Sister Martha:—

"MY DEAREST P.,—My Lord said very seriously on Monday night, your sisters never pass any time with us now! and the sound of your wheels yesterday morning was very unpleasant to us. We however thank you and our dear Anne for your visit, and though it was no more, I will admit that we had, perhaps, more real enjoyment of you in one calm month than we might have had in a longer period in the season of Earthquakes. I was glad the long projected party took place, as it prevented my looking at your empty chairs; and every thing was favourable for it, no rain, and the day mild and bright without being hot. I had not the twinges I expected, and we were all inclined to please and be pleased.

"We set out at half past ten, and reached Stanton Harcourt (the roads being very tolerable) before one. We were received with ringing

of bells, and by a vast concourse of people of all ages. I never saw so many very old persons seeming to enjoy life: several of them were above eighty. You may be sure my Lord ascribed it to the salubrity of the air and soil, which does indeed seem very dry. It would have gratified you to see how happy he was, flying about, insensible to fatigue, and saying that *now* he did feel himself at home. We visited the Church, the Monuments, some of the nearer farms, and many of the cottages, till four o'clock, and then dined. At five we set out again to more cottages, and to see the old Kitchen, the Chapel, Pope's rooms, the Porter's Lodge, and to trace out the old Garden, and the foundations of the part of the house that is pulled down.

"The whole must have been an immense pile of buildings, and deeply did my Lord regret that enough had not been left for him to make an habitation there. I did not join him in this wish, though I really had great pleasure in visiting this very old seat of our ancestors. I settled where the Lady Anne's room had been, and Mrs. Harcourt insisted upon it that she had found *aunt Dinah's:* she and Mrs. P—— were delighted, and we were in so little haste to come away, that by the time we had drank our tea it was half past seven, and we found it rather darker when we crossed Culham Heath than we quite liked."

From Countess Harcourt to her Sister Patty:—

"*September 21st.*

"MY DEAREST PATTY,—The Prince of Wales has, in the manner the most flattering to you and to me, offered to appoint you to be one of the future Princess of Wales' Bed Chamber Women. The situation is rendered particularly honourable by his intending to have none but Peers' daughters, as he wishes to put the Ladies in those employments upon a high footing. The salary is at present two hundred pounds, free from taxes; hereafter it may be three; an equipage at the times of waiting; and a share of the Princess's wardrobe. The offer of so advantageous and eligible an office is, I confess to you, a piece of good fortune that makes me happier than I can express. Lord Harcourt and Harry[a] are not less so, and we have all agreed that it is so impossible that you can hesitate about accepting it, that I have ventured to write to the Prince to assure him that I can answer for your doing so with gratitude.

"The alteration in your mode of life will be trifling, if any; and the many advantages need hardly be pointed out. Such an accession of income will enable you to do with ease many things that you might have been unwilling and afraid to

[a] Lord Vernon.

indulge yourself in, and to a person of your kind and generous temper, the being at all cramped in circumstances must be misery. You had calculated all necessary and inevitable expenses, but there was little or no remainder for contingencies, and I, who am an old housekeeper, know how many unforseen drains of that kind are perpetually happening. It would have been cruel to have pressed this idea upon you when there was no prospect of any means of removing the misfortune, but it has often made me uneasy. I have now the comfort of feeling that what would have only given you necessaries will be so increased as to allow indulgences.

"I hope, my dearest Patty, you will not be angry with me for having presumed to decide without waiting to consult you, but the great length of time it takes to send a letter to Cumberland[b], and receive an answer from thence, made me think it would be unhandsome to the Prince to let him be so long in suspense at a time when he is worried with applications. Let me then wish you joy, and let me in this letter (for I have not time to write to them) send my congratulations to Edward[c] and our two sister Annes[d]. I am sure they will most truly rejoice

[b] Rose Castle, the residence of the Bishop of Carlisle.
[c] Lady Harcourt's brother, Bishop of Carlisle. [d] Lady Anne Vernon, and Miss Anne Vernon, the Bishop's wife and sister.

in what is so advantageous to you. Harry writes for himself: my Lord bids me say every thing that is kind from him upon the occasion. I will write to tell my Brother, but at present I fancy the appointment should not be mentioned out of the family.

"God bless you; I must in haste subscribe myself your very affectionate and very happy sister,

"E. H."

From Countess Harcourt to her Sister Patty:—

"MY DEAR PATTY,—My thanks have long been due to you, and I fear for more than one letter, but I know you would hear of me, as I wrote constantly to my Mother, and my time being pretty much taken up I deferred writing to you. In my last to her I promised to send an account of our spinning feast, and as it is the only great event that has happened since my arrival at this place, it is the simple thing that can furnish me with materials for a letter. But in what style shall I give it? Will you have a plain, matter of fact, narration, or shall I relate the history of that important day in the minific manner I am most inclined to? the latter therefore if you please. We will forget that such insignificant personages as *you* and *I* exist, and you may proceed to read

"The Joys of Rural Life exemplified in the History of Lady ——.

"*Letter the First.*

"Lady —— to Miss ——.

"Yes, my Lucinda, the Poets were in the right when they placed the Temple of Felicity in the Country. How insipid are the boasted Joys of the gay metropolis compared with those pleasures of the Heart which I enjoy at Belvue Castle. You have often heard me say that Lord —— delights to diffuse happiness around him, and I remember once when we talked upon the subject you desired if you had it not in your power to be present at our annual celebration of the Feast of Industry, that I would send you a circumstantial account of it.

"Ever ready to obey my Lucinda I take up the pen, but indeed, my fair friend, I want your happy talents for description to prevent my failing in the attempt.

"The day was uncommonly fine: it seemed as if Minerva had prevailed on Phœbus to smile upon a solemnity sacred to the arts she patronizes; but the fervency of his rays was tempered by the gales which dropped from the wings of Zephyr. Flora shed her choicest fragrance round: Apollo inspired the strains of the musicians: Mirth, led by Innocence, in chains of Roses, joined the dance: while Venus, in the person of Henrietta, presided

over the whole: and the Loves and Graces, represented by Dr. Hoare, Mr. Whitehead, Miss Fauquiere, Miss Bates, &c., wantoned in her train.

"If this beginning is not in the true Novel style, I wish I may be condemned to read all that are wrote for Mr. Noble's circulating library, for I have written two pages without touching upon the subject I was to write of: but, after having found such Loves and such Graces, the power of fiction can no further go, and so I will descend from my altitudes, and tell you in plain English that we were lucky in our day, and that the whole formed a pretty and an interesting scene. Our Spinners (forty eight in number) were ranged upon the little Lawn opposite the eating room windows, with their backs to the plantation. As soon as we entered the Lawn, twenty girls, neatly dressed, advanced towards us, two and two: one of them came forward, and, giving Lady Harriet Spencer a nosegay, repeated the following lines:—

"'LADY, on thy gentle breast
Let these blooming flowerets rest—
Formed to tend the fleecy train,
To turn the hay and reap the plain,
Can our humble hands prepare
Gifts to please the Courtly fair?
Yes, for Spencer's Daughter deigns
To love the Village Nymphs and Swains;

And scorning pageantry and State,
And all that charms the young and great,
She smiles amidst our Groves to see
The honest arts of Industry.
Come then, Sisters blythe, advance,
Round her weave the festive Dance ;
To the fairest and the best
Give the Honours of the feast ;
Hail her Sovereign of the day,
And homage due to Merit pay.'

"N.B. Merit is the word engraved on the Silver Buttons on the Hats that are given to the men and women of the best characters.

"At the words 'come then, Sisters,' the other Girls joined hands with her, and the moment she had done speaking, the music (which was hid behind the trees) played, and they danced round Lady Harriet, and then went off to their wheels. The spinning, judging of that and of the sowing and knitting previously done by the Girls, took up the time till eight o'clock, when we went in to drink tea, after which I left my Lord to conduct our company to the illuminations, and returned to my Villagers. The great grove before the House was fenced in ; if you recollect, the boughs meet overhead, but the space of ground between the trees is very considerable. At one end the Pavilion with the transparent paintings was placed : at

the other a Temple ornamented with garlands of flowers. The centre of one side formed a seat for the musicians, and opposite to it was an arch which formed the entrance ; on each side of this, and of the seat fronting it, there were smaller arches illuminated ; and the spaces between them were filled with the prizes.

"As soon as I knew the company was seated, I moved forward, a large band of music preceding me, and the Women following me, two and two, those who were dressed in prize Jackets taking precedence of the others : the Girls followed them in the same order, and then the Men who were to receive prizes, and those who had in former years received them, either for their general good characters or for their care of their gardens. These closed the procession, which, entering at the arch, walked round the enclosed spot ; then they stopped to make room for the Girls to come forward, when she who had before spoken presented Lady Harriet with a garland of flowers, and the following lines :—

"'QUEEN of the sports you deign to grace,
Upon your brow vouchsafe to place
The wreath we justly give ;
From Village Maids of lowly birth
This fragrant produce of the Earth,
Exalted Fair receive.

To charms an angel's self might wear,
To worth above our humble sphere,
We lift admiring eyes;
But where we are obliged to own
Our very innocence outdone,
We blushing yield the prize.'

"Lady Harriet having received her prize and fixed it on her hat (where she wore it the rest of the evening), the other candidates, thirty in number, received theirs, which I delivered, standing under the arch with the company ranged on each side. When this was over, my Lord and I began the Ball at the head of our Villagers, with a dance Lady Charlotte West composed upon the occasion, called the Nuneham Spinning Feast. Lady Harriet, as our Queen, and Mr. Harcourt[e], as one of the family, had a right to dance in one set; at the end of the dance we retired to the Temple; and then those of the spectators who chose it were at liberty to dance, and formed two other sets. You really cannot form an idea of any thing so pretty as the scene. There were at least a thousand people present. Not a Coach, Chaise, or Boat in the neighbourhood was unemployed. All the farmers and little gentry, as well as the poorer people, for many miles round, were here; and the number of lamps, the beauty of the decorations, and the natural beauty of the place,

[e] General Harcourt, Lord Harcourt's brother.

altogether gave me an idea of Fairy Land. Lord Spencer, who came on purpose, was so delighted that he not only resolved to attend our fête again next year, but to institute one at Althorp.

"I have written you a volume. I wish you could have seen what I have tried to describe. The poetical part was a surprize even to my Lord; the plan of it and the first verses were mine, the second Mr. Whitehead's.

"Adieu, mon chere, say every thing proper for us, and be assured that I am

"Yours very affectionately."

We now pass on to a later period, and give two letters from Lady Harcourt to her husband in the year 1789.

From Countess Harcourt to Earl Harcourt:—

"*October*, 1789.

"I HATE Mondays, for I must be satisfied without a letter from you; those the King has received this morning say that it was chiefly 'les Prissonieres' who composed the Mob that attacked Versailles. The Queen was in bed, and they tried to force their way into her room, resolved to destroy her. She was saved by 'les Gardes du Corps,' and for this the Regiment is broke. When

they got the King to Paris they carried him to l'Hôtel de Ville, where he was assured that no harm was intended him, *for that it was necessary that there should be a King*. He is in a state of despondency; the Queen cries from morning to night; but for the last day or two the people have obliged her to be constantly at the window. Some have said that they thought she had been represented in worse colours than she deserved, and the cry of Vive la Reine has been repeated more than once; her becoming popular would complete the extraordinary events of the year 1789.

"The Tuilleries have not been inhabited since the minority of Louis quatorze, and no preparation whatever was made for the reception of the King and Queen; indeed there was no time for any, for the plan was executed as soon as conceived. Les Etats Generaux will in some sort be prisoners too, for they were to be removed to the Louvre, and forbid to leave Paris. It is thought that the King owes his safety to the absence of the Comte d'Artois, and that if the mob could have destroyed the whole Royal family they would gladly have done it, but would not sacrifice one part while another remained. The King was aware of this, and himself persuaded the Count to fly; au moins (said he) qu'il reste un pour venger les autres. Seventeen persons were killed in the

riot at Versailles, but there is no certain account whether the Dukes de Guise and du Chatelés are of the number.

"Mr. Compton (who speaks of you, of your goodness and your condescension, in the highest terms) has made a very accurate drawing for you of the chimney piece you liked so much, and now it is become the fashion to admire it, but I am sorry to tell you that I fear the plan of living at the Castle is quite given up. It is, upon many accounts, unfortunate; the King would not only have a habitation that would be proper for him, but the preparing it would furnish him with amusement, which he but too much wants. By hurrying from one object to another he formerly *filled* up his time, and *fancied* that it passed pleasantly: the restlessness and eagerness which then carried him on have now subsided. I grieve to see that his hours move upon leaden feet; exercise and music were his great occupations and amusements; he has no longer the same power of taking the one, or the same pleasure in hearing the other; and, though the sweetness of his temper prevents his complaining of the ennui he feels, those about him see it but too visibly, without being able to apply any remedy to so dreadful a disease.

"Adieu mon cher."

From Countess Harcourt to Earl Harcourt :—

"*October*, 1789.

"THE accounts from France are very bad; whether they may get immediately into the newspapers I do not know, and therefore will repeat to you what the King told me.

"When any new Regiment comes to Versailles the Gardes du Corps always make an entertainment for them. Upon the arrival of the Regiment de Flandre, a few days since, this custom was observed, and in a moment of pleasure they threw away the National Cockades, and put on black ones. It is supposed that no objection was made by the King to this proceeding, and it was soon known at Paris. The next morning more than three thousand women, armed with such offensive weapons as they could collect, marched to Versailles and attacked les Gardes du Corps, who fired upon them and killed four; the confusion soon became general, and the King and Queen were carried off to Paris and lodged in the Tuilleries, unaired and unprepared as it was for their reception. This is all that was known when the account came away. The King and Queen are wholly at the mercy of the mob, and no one knows what will be their fate. La Fayette would have interceded for them, and only saved his own

life by agreeing to what the many headed monster proposed.

"The French have liberty enough now, and I should think those who are capable of reflecting or feeling must wish to see their old form of Government restored, Bastile, Lettres de Cachet, and all, for great as those evils were, the present are still greater; they were occasionally oppressive to a few; the whole Nation is now involved. I have seen some of the Cockades; those of the Tiers Etat are made up like the roses on my slippers, one side with rows alternately of Blue and White, the other White and Rose colour. Neckar's are plain Orange, and there is a third sort Orange and Green with a White flower in the middle. The Queen of France says that the Spruce Beer the French drunk in America got into their heads, and the effects now shew themselves; the people are aware that they *can* intimidate and *cannot trust* the King.

"We have no account of Lord Waldegrave today, I therefore hope his disorder has taken a favourable turn, for had he remained as ill as he was, another day I think must have been fatal. The King is hunting. I find he said that his opinion of his own situation would depend upon his being able to enjoy his favourite amusement. He went out the first time fully prepossessed that he should not, but the stag was

hardly started before he found himself as eager as ever. As he was returning in high spirits, he said, 'Now I should like to see my good old Doctor;' luckily, during his absence, Willis had arrived unexpectedly; he had been alarmed at finding by the papers how harrying a life His Majesty had led, and was agreeably surprised to find him so particularly well.

"Adieu, my dearest Lord,
"You know how affectionately
"I am yours."

Letter from the Hon. W. Harcourt.

IN common with others, whose incomes were derived solely from land, Lord Harcourt found himself straightened in circumstances at this period. The necessity of paying £62,000 out of the produce of his estates, as fortunes for his brother and sister, induced him to sell his Northamptonshire property. The business-like letter which follows, written on the occasion by his brother, exhibits a desire to afford every fraternal assistance. The result of the transaction, however, was that Pipewell Abbey was sold considerably below its value.

From the Hon. W. Harcourt to Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt:—

"*March 14th*, 1806.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—I have considered and reconsidered your letter, and I am sorry to tell you that I have not been able to make up my mind respecting the subject upon

which you desire my opinion. If my brother's embarrassments are not as pressing as my apprehensions lead me to suppose, I should incline to a sale by Auction; but I am so little acquainted with the usual price of Land in the County of Northampton, which is certainly not a favourite one, that it may perhaps be more advisable to treat with Mr. Dennis, even upon the disadvantageous terms he proposes, rather than risk an uncertain sale which might leave you in the same situation as I experienced in the case of Sir George Lee, with the whole or the most part of the Estate upon your hands. With respect to the real value of the property, although Trumper's valuation at 30 years' purchase is certainly too high, I conceive that Mr. Dennis's, at 27 years for the Farms, and 18 for the Soil of the Wood Lands, to be as much too low; and, considering the improvement to be made in the Estate, is at least £2,600 less than the real value; what think you of proposing to divide the difference, which, in a purchase of this magnitude, if he is in earnest, I should hope he would not object to.

"Upon a supposition that a larger sum than £1,000 might afford considerable accommodation to my brother, I had it once in contemplation to offer myself as the purchaser of the Timber, Underwood, and Soil of Wood Land, and to receive the difference only between the supposed

value and my Fortune. In that case the General Statement would stand as follows, viz^{t}.—

To be received from Mr. Dennis for the Farms	£28,327
Appropriation.	
To Mr. Poulter	£18,000
Earl Harcourt	2,726
General Harcourt . . .	7,601
	£28,327
General Harcourt's Fortune . .	31,000
To purchase Timber at the Valuation, suppose	19,500
Underwood	880
Soil of Wood Land at 18 years' purchase . . .	3,019
Difference as above . .	7,601
	£31,000

"I have only to add that if that part of my Fortune appropriated to the purchase of the Timber, Underwood, and Soil of the Wood Land would furnish its proportion of my Income without a diminution of the sum laid out, I should not be a loser; if otherwise I would much rather not engage in the speculation. I shall be in London in the course of the next week. Love from both to both.

"Yours very affectionately,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

Letter from the Dowager Countess Spencer.

GEORGE SIMON, Lord Harcourt, died, as has been previously noted, in 1809; the following letter was written to his widow by Lady Spencer shortly after his death.

From the Dowager Countess Spencer to Lady Harcourt :—

"*Holywell House, June 29th*, 1809.

"My thoughts have often dwelt upon you since I saw you, my Dear Lady Harcourt, and most sincerely do I wish I could think of any thing that would help to soothe and soften that bitterness of heart that affliction like yours will occasion. I came here yesterday, and find myself so refreshed by the sweetness of the air and the calm tranquillity of the scene around me, that I cannot help wishing you could remove hither. I know your family have stronger claims upon you than I have; but I am not asking you to visit me, I am only saying that, as I must of necessity be absent from home great part of the Summer, you will gratify me by making this your abode instead of travel-

ling about, which will not, I am sure, agree with your health or spirits.

"Think this over, and let me have a line to say whether there is any chance of your accepting of this proposal, as my own plans will, in a great measure, depend upon your answer. A single Yes or No will be sufficient.

"Adieu, Dear Lady Harcourt,

"Yours most affectionately,

"G. SPENCER."

Letters from the Countess Dowager Harcourt.

AFTER the death of George Simon, Lord Harcourt, differences appear to have arisen respecting money matters, which were chiefly instigated by the new Lady Harcourt. Mary, Countess Harcourt, as she was now become, was a woman of warm temper and small reserve. The entire disposition of the family estates was reserved to George Simon, Lord Harcourt, by his father, at the time that he made a very large settlement upon his second son. Mary, Lady Harcourt, took it very much amiss that her sister-in-law's jointure should be increased, and that her husband should not have it in his power to devise the estates after their joint deaths to the French Harcourts, who were her special protegees. It is not desirable to perpetuate the memory of family differences, but it is only fair upon Lady

Harcourt to give her disclaimer to the unjust accusation against her of unfair dealing.

From the Countess Dowager Harcourt to William, Earl Harcourt :—

"MY DEAR LORD,—As I understand from Lord Vernon that you wished to have the papers he shewed you yesterday, I have copied for you the whole of one of them, and the part of the other that relates to the business in question between us. I hope and trust that you will consider all I have said attentively, and that you will find nothing that can reasonably displease you. My heart tells me that though it was my duty to speak the truth, I have not one *unkind* thought with regard to you, but I have had many *unhappy* ones from finding you so ill satisfied with your Brother's will. Whatever was done that you may wish otherwise, I am convinced was suggested by the Lawyer who made it, and acquiesced in by him from conceiving it the usual mode, and that so far from meaning any hardship to you, he would have avoided any thing he could have been aware of your objecting to. As I have entered upon this hateful subject, I must take this opportunity of assuring you, in the most *unequivocal* and *solemn manner*, that I never did *directly* nor *indirectly interfere*. I was *not present* when the will *was made*

or the *Codicils*. *I never in my life* saw *either*, or heard *them read*, and was totally ignorant of the contents *further than* that the property was left to you; that if you had neither sons nor daughters, and I survived you, I was to enjoy it for my life, with remainder to your first cousin [my Brother], and his sons; next to Amadée[a] and his sons, &c., &c.; and so little was I acquainted even with the particulars relating to *myself*, that till September, 1808, I believed that my Jointure (and I was perfectly satisfied) was to be made up to £2,000 per annum, instead of that sum being *added to it*.

"With your Brother's strong understanding, and nice sense of honour, any attempt *on my part* of *interference* in a business of *this nature* would not *have been borne:* and, if I had been unprincipled enough to have wished even to give an opinion, I must have been an idiot not to know that I should have defeated my own purpose: but I appeal to my character and conduct through life to prove that I was incapable of such an idea. I could go much farther, for there is no *Oath* I should not be willing to take to attest *the truth* of what I have asserted, and I believe you will allow that I have both sense and religion enough to know the *importance* of an *Oath*.

"If you *believe* me I may surely still claim from

[a] The Marquis d'Harcourt.

you the affection, friendship, and confidence that it was my happiness and my pride to possess, even before I became your sister, and which I have never *deserved* to forfeit. After the assurances I have given you I will not suppose it possible for any doubt to remain upon your mind, but shall rely upon your *Justice* that you will consider me as I always have been, and very sincerely am,

"My Dear Lord,

"Most affectionately yours,

"E. HARCOURT."

Verses by Lady Harcourt.

LADY HARCOURT had always a great turn for versification. Specimens of her industry in this direction are here given.

Lines written upon returning to Sudbury, after being some time absent, 1766 :—

"Yes, my remembrance well recalls
  Each former joy I knew
Within these hospitable walls,
  When time unheeded flew.
For here my opening Morn of Life
  Serenely passed away;
Exempt from sorrow, pain, or strife,
  And innocently gay.
Each infant trick, each childish sport,
  With fond delight I trace;
And often hither I'll resort,
  For well I love the place.
Each shrub, each tree, each plant and flower,
  Each little spot of earth,
Reminds me of some former hour
  Replete with youthful mirth.

Again I joy these Meads among,
  To see yon Rivulet wind;
Oft by its side I danced or sung,
  As fancy most inclined.
And oft I passed the noontide hours
  Beneath yon aged tree;
While Zephyr breathed, from banks of flowers,
  Refreshing Gales to me.
When years rolled on, and childish plays
  No longer gave delight;
Still here I passed my happy Days—
  Ah! ne'er were Days more bright.
Again with pleasure I survey,
  With welcome in their glance,
Of faithful Servants, long grown grey,
  A smiling group advance.
I find unchanged, in love and truth,
  Each Brother, Sister, Friend;
With whom I lived in early youth,
  And wish my life to spend.
But ah! what words can tell the bliss,
  What tongue the transport speak,
When a fond Father's tender kiss
  I feel upon my cheek!
When she, whose every action charms,
  Indulgent, good, and mild,
Enfolds in her maternal arms,
  Her loved, long-absent Child."

Lines on the manner in which I suppose my Death would affect different persons :—

" YES, let me learn in early youth
To listen to the Voice of Truth ;
Learn to despise the thoughtless train,
The idle, selfish, and the vain,
With whom so many hours I spend ;
Who greet me with the name of Friend,
Yet would not feel one grain of sorrow
To hear my Death announced to-morrow.
Suppose the news at Almack's told—
'Madam, the weather's very cold,
I hope you take the utmost care
To keep yourself from this bad air :
Fevers and Coughs are general quite—
Poor Lady Nuneham died last night.'
'Is Lady Nuneham dead? dear me!
I'll thank you for a cup of tea.
What died she of?' 'I cannot tell ;
I never heard she was not well.
'Twas but the other night, you know,
I saw her with you at Soho,
And then I'm sure she danced with spirit.
I never thought she had much merit.
How very sweet those flowers smell—
Have you been dancing, Lady Bell?'
'Yes, Ma'am, and am so out of breath—
But did your La'ship talk of Death?'

'Oh yes, poor Lady Nuneham's dead—
Pray tell me who is that in Red,
By Lady Fanny? don't you see,
Close to the door, on that Settee?'
'Lord, don't you know Sir William's bride?
When was it Lady Nuneham died?'
'Last night, I think I heard them say,
But possibly it was to-day.
One should not of the Dead complain,
But I must own I thought her vain—
Though why she was, I could not guess.'
'Yes, she was vain, and fond of Dress.
She always had a wondrous passion
For every silly new French fashion.
Madam, I think I'd lay my life
Her Lord will take a second Wife.
How should you like him for your Daughter?
(My tea's too strong, I want some water).'
'His rank is high, and he is Heir
To a good fortune!—I declare
'Twould be a very pretty match ;
But Lady Mary's on the catch—
She has two Daughters still to marry,
And seldom finds her plans miscarry.'
'What age might Lady Nuneham be?'
'Just now, they said, but twenty-three.'
'No more! why really then, my Dear,
Hers has been but a short career!
But while on trifles we're debating,
Our partners will be tired of waiting.'

Such are the Friends the world bestows—
How widely different from those
Endeared by every tender tie
That nature, habit, taste, supply,
With whom I hope to pass my life
As Daughter, Sister, Friend, and Wife.
For well I know each feeling Heart
Reluctantly from me will part,
My loss my Sisters long will mourn,
My Brothers weep upon my Urn ;
And all will join with pious care
To save our Mother from despair ;
Our Father's tender grief assuage,
And comfort their declining age.
And thou, most dear, most valued Friend,
With sorrow will my Couch attend ;
Kindly solicitous, thy Love
Will strive each suffering to remove—
Try to prolong my fleeting Hours,
And strew the bed of Death with flowers.
Oh may I, to my fate resigned,
Bear every pain with steady mind ;
Hide all I feel, and all I fear,
Nor wound with vain complaints thy ear :
And when the closing scene draws nigh,
And objects fade before mine eye,
May some kind Friend's attentive care
(For ill thy tender Heart would bear
A last farewell) remove thee thence.
To me, if still expiring sense

Some little influence should maintain,
That moment will be Death's worst pain.
Yet to the last I'll think thee near,
Fancy thy soothing Voice I hear ;
Thy praise my latest words shall tell,
On thee my latest thoughts shall dwell ;
And sinking in the arms of Death,
I'll bless thee with my latest breath."

Occasioned by a Friend's being surprized at my liking the Country :—

She is supposed to speak first.

"'WHAT means this change, my gentle Friend ?
When youth and health their blessings lend ;
When pleasure woos you to her bowers,
When fortune strews your paths with flowers ;
Why will you leave the World's gay scene,
To die of vapours and the spleen ?'
'Of vapours and the spleen ! my Dear,
They never yet found entrance here.
These shady Groves, these calm retreats,
Where Nature sheds her choicest sweets,
To me the truest pleasure give—
Here free from every care I live,
Here I enjoy content and ease :
Can Town bestow such Joys as these ?
'But has not Friendship then some claim ?'
'I bow with reverence to the name,

And, grateful, thank the powers above,
Who early taught my Heart to love
That sacred tie by Heaven designed
To soften and to bless Mankind.'
'Then quit your calm retreat, your Grove,
Where childish fancy bids you rove:
Romantic schemes are out of fashion,
And pleasure is the Female passion;
Haste, then, and revel in her train,
Or if her voice should plead in vain,
Let your Friends' wishes have some weight—
Those Friends you boasted of so late.
Those Friends who now your absence mourn,
Let them persuade you to return.'
'Let them persuade!—those Friends sincere,
Who truly love, will seek me here;
Will joy to leave the care and strife
That oft attend a public life,
To share my tranquil, happy hours,
My verdant shades and fragrant bowers.'"

Character of Mr. ——.

"SEMPRONIUS seems the favourite of Heaven,
To him are honors, riches, talents, given;
To crown the whole a mind above all fraud,
And sense that e'en his Enemies applaud.
You cry Sempronius must indeed be blest,
Intruding care can ne'er approach his breast;
'Tis his, unmixed, to taste the cup of bliss—
He sure can form no wish! I answer Yes,

With all these blessings, more that I could name,
Sempronius justly may your pity claim;
Sempronius wants what wealth can ne'er impart,
Or honours give him—a contented Heart:
Still through the blackest medium Life he views,
And Visionary schemes of good pursues.
What would he be? you ask—no matter what,
He would be any thing—that he is not."

To Flavia, occasioned by her saying she thought the Men right in censuring the love of dissipation of the Women of the present times:—

"FLAVIA, you said the other night
You thought the Men were in the right,
And all the censures which they threw
Upon our Sex were justly due.
Strange doctrines for a female tongue,
But you, my dear, are very young;
When you have doubled sweet fifteen,
And viewed with calmer eyes the scene
Which novelty and youth array
In colours falsely bright and gay,
Convinc'd, you'll own both Sexes claim
An equal share of praise and blame.
If ours, unconscious of the rein,
Play thoughtless on the flowery plain,
Or gayly twine the fragrant wreath,
Regardless of the snake beneath,

Till its fell bite and rankling tooth
Crops all their Joys, and blasts their youth ;
Say, have the Men who boast their powers,
Their sense, their reason, above ours—
Have they no faults they wish to hide?
Do they protect us, do they guide
Our faltering steps with tender care,
And all our Joys and sorrows share?
Some wed they know not why, while others
Consult their Fathers and their Mothers ;
And, not for Love, but fortune's sake,
A partner to their bosoms take.
Some care but little for the Bride,
Provided that she's well allied :
No matter for her mind or face,
If a long Pedigree she trace ;
The notions of old-fashioned ages
Now only live in musty pages.
The Friend, the Mistress, and the Wife,
The love that knew no end but life,
They call ridiculous pretences,
And think their Sires had lost their senses.
Their wiser maxims bid them roam,
For pleasure's never sought at home ;
And cold indifference and neglect
Is all their partners must expect.
Can we then blame the hapless train,
Who finding every effort vain
To win affection from their Lords,
Seek the relief the world affords?

Flavia, believe this serious truth :
Would Men be Guardians of our youth,
Would they our levities restrain,
And hold with steady hand the rein,
Yet, with indulgence ever kind,
Improve each Virtue of the mind,
Our Sex would soon regain the praise
It boasted in Queen Bess's Days."

A Character.

"Such Stella is, nor is it strange her fate
Should be to raise at once contempt and hate.
When Female minds, disdaining shame or fear,
Break Nature's laws, and quit that modest sphere
Where most they shine, where most they charm the eyes
Of all the truly great, the truly wise ;
When the meek virtue of our sex we change,
Through learning's depths at large with men to range ;
The Sage despise us, pity us at best,
And every School Boy turns us into jest.
When Manly talents we aspire to gain,
We lose our own, but cannot theirs attain ;
Lower we sink from striving to rise higher,
While neither Sex will own whom none admire.
Unhappy Stella! do whate'er she can,
Will still be less than Woman,—less than Man."

To Miss Hay, in answer to a letter informing me that she and her Sister had purchased Ades, and expressing her wish to pass her life there :—

"YES, Dear Miss Hay, your pencil traces,
With happy skill, all Nature's graces ;
Upon the canvas are displayed
The just degrees of light and shade.
Well has your lively fancy drawn
Each various charm of Wood and Lawn.
The House (I see) is small and neat,
The Barns with Ceres' gifts replete ;
The richest foliage decks your Trees,
And Roses bloom where'er you please ;
While every songster in your Grove
Tunes its soft notes to Joy and Love.
Nor Claude nor Poussin could display
A scene more pleasing, or more gay.
May health, content, and peace attend
To guard the spot, and bless my Friend.
Yet let me ask, while you at Ades
Are wandering in Elysian shades,
Wooing the Goddess Contemplation,
And fond of rural recreation ;
Why need you cast such hard aspersions
Upon the Town and its diversions?
'Cannot two Spinsters live and die
Contented here?' I don't deny

You might (perhaps), but, Dear Miss Hay,
What does Miss Fanny think and say?
Can she, to Country cares resigned,
Banish Cornelys from her mind?
And will the Groves and Fields at Ades
Please more than Plays and Masquerades?
Full well the deference I know
Younger to elder Sisters owe,
Yet speaking looks will sometimes tell
Whether those Sisters reason well.
You know Miss Fanny is discerning,
And all her sense and all her learning
Have proved that, to be truly blest,
Variety must give the Zest
To every pleasure ; and can you
Deny this maxim to be true?
Can you, whose feeling soul is formed
For Friendship's joys, whose heart is warmed
With every social Virtue's fire,
Whom all esteem, whom all admire,—
Can you (unkind), can you intend
To slight the voice of every Friend,
And bury in your Sylvan Groves
The merit that engaged our Love?
Oh let my artless numbers plead
Their cause and mine : if I succeed—
If aught I urge persuasive seems,
And wakes you from your rural dreams,
Again I'll strike the tuneful Lyre—
Friendship shall every note inspire,

And teach me, in no common lays,
To celebrate my Harriet's praise."

To the memory of Frances, Viscountess Palmerston, who died in 1770:—

"STRANGER, whoe'er thou art whose curious eye
Shall mark the tablet, with respect draw nigh;
With reverence tread this consecrated place,
Here sleep the last remains of every grace:
The fairest form, the fairest mind could boast,
In life's gay Summer most untimely lost.
Art thou who read'st these lines with beauty blessed,
By fortune favoured, and by Friends caressed?
Do Wit, do Wisdom, claim thee for their own,
By every gentle Virtue art thou known?
Approach, and learn an awful lesson here,
All that thou art she was. Yes, ever dear,
Fortune and beauty all their gifts bestowed,
And every Virtue in thy bosom glowed;
Wisdom, persuasive, on thy accents hung,
And lively Wit flowed blameless from thy tongue.
Thine was each generous thought, thine warmth of Heart,
Thine the pure mind that scorned the mask of art;
'Twas thine in every scene of life to shine;
To charm, attach, improve, and bless, were thine.
The Friend whose love was, like thy soul, sincere,
Embalms thy ashes with a tender tear;
Pays the sad tribute of this mournful Verse,
And hangs the wreath of sorrow on thy Hearse."

To Viscount Nuneham, June, 1773, occasioned by his giving the advice with which the lines begin:—

"'WRITE, but revise, contract, correct,
With rigour view the least defect;
Nor think a thousand careless lines,
Though here and there some Genius shines,
Can ever merit just applause,
If they transgress established laws.'
My Lord, I own your counsel good,
And would observe it, if I could;
But hard the task, when numbers join,
And words flow in to form the line,
Patient to sit, and wait till thought
By critic rules the web has wrought;
Long ere I knew one mode of art,
Long ere the Head had schooled the Heart,
Sportive I trod poetic ground,
And strewed my childish offerings round.
As years advanced, my Garland still
Was formed with joy, though not with skill.
I little hoped my rhymes could please,
But wrote because I wrote with ease;
Yet partial Friends would sometimes find
Light gleams of fancy in my mind,
And say I might in time aspire
To strike with bolder hand the Lyre.
Eager to gain and merit praise,
I vowed no more to waste my days;

Ambition all my bosom warmed,
Taught me to hope, by study formed,
By taste enlightened, I might claim
Some blossoms from the wreath of fame.
And now to Poesey's sweet powers
I gave my calm delightful hours;
Attentive turned th' historic leaf,
While my young Heart o'erflowed with grief,
Or glowed with transport as I read
The actions of th' illustrious Dead.
And many a mighty scheme I planned;
But other Joys were near at hand.
Fate led me from my loved retreat,
The Muses' haunt, the Virtues' seat;
Bade me in gayer scenes appear,
And move in a more public sphere.
By novelty my soul was caught—
Farewell reflection, study, thought;
No more I sought the Delian Bowers,
My Toilette claimed my morning hours;
The evening came, away I flew,
The glittering phantom still in view,
Rarely attained, till tired at night,
Calm Reason lent her steady light,
And bade me from experience tell
If real joy in crowds can dwell.
Yet, wild with vanity and youth,
I hear, but slight, the voice of truth;
And, though the scene's no longer new,
From habit the same course pursue.

And now the Muses, once so kind,
Displeased, forsake my darkened mind;
The little Genius I could boast,
For want of cultivation's lost,
And each neglected talent flies;
Meanwhile, I see, with anxious eyes,
Full many a wasted, misspent year,
Upon the roll of time appear;
And, blushing, own my life's full day
Glows fainter than its morning ray.
Patience you cry, the time's not past,
'Tis well you see your faults at last;
For, at your age, you still may find
Full leisure to inform your mind;
The bar of indolence remove,
And every talent will improve.
Alas, my Lord, my trembling Heart
Wants force to act a steady part;
My mind, like some soft opening flower,
Expands and closes in an hour:
And, on the world's gay billows tossed,
My best resolves are often lost.
Habits of idleness and ease
Have gained too much the power to please;
Fair pleasure's too alluring face
Still seems adorned with every grace:
E'en while my errors I perceive
Their flattering voices still deceive;
And though I strive to break the chain,
I find my efforts are in vain.

Ah lend me then your friendly aid,
Support, correct, advise, persuade ;
Point out the path you most approve,
And make me worthier of your Love."

To Anna Chamber, Countess Temple, July, 1773, occasioned by her desiring me to write some verses to her :—

" WAS it, Dear Ma'am, in sport or spite
That you commanded me to write ?
Can you, of Womankind the best,
Turn those who love you into jest ?
Though I like Verse, it does not follow
I must be favoured by Apollo.
And pray what subject must I choose,
What numbers take, what gentle Muse
Invoke to second my design,
And grace with harmony each line ?
Must I at once devote my lays
To panegyric and soft praise,
Or give the reins to my ill nature,
Rail at the world, and write a satire ?
The easy, playful, poignant wit
Of real satire's hard to hit ;
Which, while it every foible shows,
The limits of good breeding knows.
And, should success attend my lays,
From you I could expect no praise ;

You'd shake your head, and say, 'tis pity
Ill nature should be reckoned witty ;
For souls of an exalted kind,
In others' faults no pleasure find.
To panegyric let us turn,
I want not judgment to discern
One who might every tribute claim,
If merit has a right to fame ;
But (strange to tell) supreme dessert
With its own praise is ever hurt ;
And, like the Violet, shuns the ray
That calls its beauties into day ;
And, should I dare pursue my thought,
And paint a mind where not a fault,
Where not a weakness can be found,
Where sense, and wit, and taste abound,
The World would soon the likeness own,
For Temple's portrait must be known.
But you (my Friend) would frowning cry,
The colouring is much too high.
One theme indeed might please your ear ;
' She's thinking of Lord Temple here,'
I'm sure you'll say, ' Yes, if she will
On him she may exert her skill.
Yet worth like his might well inspire
Superior Bards to wake the Lyre.'
Dear Ma'am I know it, and resign
The task to abler hands than mine ;
Let them in worthier strains commend ;
Let me remain your faithful Friend."

Ah lend me then your friendly aid,
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To the Honourable Horace Walpole, August, 1773, occasioned by his approbation of the foregoing lines :—

"To write with judgment, with correctness please,
Unite the rules of Art with nature's ease ;
Bid lively wit and sportive fancy join
With taste refined, and nervous sense, is thine ;
'Tis mine at awful distance to admire,
And wake to humbler strains an artless Lyre.
Pleased when thy candid voice my song commends,
More pleased to rank thee with my partial Friends.
True merit shuns th' applause it can command,
But lends to others a supporting hand.
To waken Genius with the breath of praise,
With kind indulgence every talent raise,
Each fainter colouring of the mind display,
O'er every dawning thought diffuse the day,
And bid the Muse her trembling wings extend,
Well suits the Virtues' and the Muse's friend ;
Well suits the Man whose nobly feeling heart
Glows with the love of every liberal art.
Walpole, accept this tributary lay,
To thee let gratitude her homage pay ;
Hail the kind voice unwilling still to blame,
And giving praises which I dare not claim."

Written upon the King's recovery :—

"OUR prayers are heard, the Night of grief is o'er,
And Joy's bright morning glads our eyes once more ;
No longer heave our breasts with pangs sincere,
Hushed is each sorrow, banished every fear ;
While pious praises for the blessing given
Shall rise like Incense to the Throne of Heaven.
Oh thou, not more pre-eminent in birth
And Royal greatness, than acknowledged worth ;
Can I, when those, who but at distance view
Thy Virtues, pay the tribute justly due ;
Can I, whose faithful bosom truly shares
Thy present Glory, as thy former cares ;
Can I submit to timid fear's control,
And check the warm effusions of my soul ?
No, let my artless Verse my joy express,
My grateful heart the God of mercy bless,
Whose power Omnipotent in pity spares,
And grants our Sovereign to a Nation's prayers."

Epitaph on General James Johnston, written at the request of Lady Cecilia Johnston :—

"BENEATH these Holy Shrines that awful spread
To guard the gloomy Mansions of the Dead,
Johnston with Brother Chiefs we place thy Bust,
And mix with Honor's Sons thy sacred Dust.

Reader, if modest worth may claim thy Tear,
If dauntless spirit to thy soul be dear;
In him the noblest Characters were joined,
A Hero's firmness with a Christian's mind."

Letter from Lord Harcourt.

LADY HARCOURT had always looked forward to surviving her brother-in-law; and, in this expectation, she somewhat stinted herself during her widowed life, with a view of saving money for the purpose of restoring the house at Nuneham, which had been little inhabited and entirely neglected by William, Lord Harcourt, during his tenancy. This, however, was not to be, and she was buried by the side of her husband in the church at Stanton Harcourt in 1826.

The following letter from Lord Harcourt alludes to the event.

From William, Earl Harcourt, to his Agent, Mr. Bryan Trumper:—

"*St. Leonard's, 27 Jan.* 1826.

"TRUMPER,—Having this day received an account of the death of the Dowager Countess Harcourt, which happened on Wednesday night last,

after a very tedious illness, I have requested the Rector, Mr. Baker, to do me the favour to perform the service at her funeral at Stanton Harcourt; of which you shall have due notice, in order that you and the Tenants of that Parish may attend; which I wish them to do, as a mark of respect to the memory of so old a member of my family. I am not aware of any expenses attending this melancholy ceremony, further than a fee to the clergyman of the Parish for allowing Mr. Baker to perform the service; but you will inform yourself what was done upon the occasion of my brother's Funeral, and act accordingly.

"Enclosed you have a list of persons who I propose to give mourning to upon this occasion, with the sums appropriated to each, and which I depend upon you to see laid out accordingly, viz.:—

Yourself and wife	£12
Steavenson and wife . . .	10
Faulkner	7
McMulen and wife	8
Hannah West	2
	£39

"I am, yours, &c.,
"HARCOURT."

Memoir of William, Earl Harcourt.

THE third Earl Harcourt succeeded to the family title and estates upon the death of his brother, George Simon, in the year 1809. William, Lord Harcourt, followed the profession of arms, and was an ardent soldier all his life. He entered the army at an early age; his first command was that of a troop in a cavalry regiment, raised at the sole expense of his father. The troop went by the name of Captain Harcourt's Black Horse.

He volunteered wherever he was likely to find active service; in the West Indies; in the Low Countries; in America; and, in fact, in any quarter of the globe where there was any chance of exercising his profession. He rose to the highest rank in the army, and filled many distinguished military posts. His first notable feat was the taking General Lee prisoner, with a handful of dragoons, at an outpost in front of the whole American

army. For this he received the thanks of Parliament. He commanded the cavalry of the Allies in the Low Countries; he was the first governor of the Royal Military College of Sandhurst; he was made a Field Marshal; and held various Court appointments to the day of his death, which occurred in 1830. He used to assemble round him once a year, at Nuneham, the officers of the regiment in which he had served, and of which he always remained Colonel, namely, the 16th Dragoons; known afterwards as the 16th Lancers. He, moreover, sat for a few years in the House of Commons.

The correspondence which follows commences in the year 1762.

On the 5th of March in that year an expedition, commanded by General the Earl of Albemarle, and Admiral Sir George Pocock, started from Portsmouth. Its destination was the Havanna. It was composed of nineteen ships of the line, eighteen smaller ships of war, and 150 transports, with 10,000 soldiers. The landing at Havanna was un-

opposed, but with the landing their difficulties began. A deadly climate and a strongly fortified city, assisted by the ships of war within the harbour, proved to be most formidable opponents; and it was not till the expeditionary force had endured untold hardships for two months that the place capitulated. The treasure which fell to the conquerors was immense, and great were the complaints at the disposition of it. £130,000 as the share of each Commander, and £4 as the share of each man, was certainly a monstrous division of the three millions sterling of booty!

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Viscount Nuneham:—

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—As we have quitted the Governor's house upon hearing of Lord Tyralleigh's intention of immediately coming to Portsmouth, if you do propose letting me hear from you, which I need not assure you will be giving me the greatest pleasure, it must be by the next post, as to-morrow is fixed upon for the day of our embarkation; and if the wind

continues fair we shall possibly be under sail by Thursday next. Your letter must be directed to be left at the Crown Coffee House, from whence, if it should come too late for me to receive it, the people of the House will enclose it to you. By the last disposition which was made, within these last two or three days, it was fixed for me to go with Mr. Keppel instead of Sir Geo. Pocock; which, tho' not quite so agreeable to me, nevertheless, as it is necessary for Col. Carleton to go in the same ship with my Lord, as he is Quarter-master-General, I could not but give my consent; without which Sir Geo. Pocock was so polite as to say he wou'd not make the alteration, as he had promised Lord Harcourt to take me in his ship.

"Geo. West left us last Saturday, at which I was very sorry, for he was of great use, as he knew everybody; but pray tell him that I am very angry with him for neglecting to send the portable soup, and for not writing, which he promised me he would certainly do. As I have heard this moment that we shall certainly sail early on Thursday morning, I beg you would not trouble yourself to write, but you may depend on my embracing every opportunity of informing the family how we go on. I must conclude with desiring you to assure that dearest girl, my sister, in the strongest manner, that she need not give herself one moment's uneasiness with regard to my being

blooded, should there be any real occasion. I hope she has received a letter from me which I wrote some time ago. That all sorts of blessings may attend all the family is the most ardent wish of your most

"Sincere and affectionate
"Brother and Friend,
"W. HARCOURT.

"P.S. Tuesday, March 1st. My best compts to Mr. Hoare. This I send to you by an express of Ld Albemarle's."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Viscount Nuneham :—

"DEAR BROTHER,—I have the pleasure to inform you that we arrived off this place the 6th of June, after having had a most remarkable safe and expeditious passage through the Straits of Bahama; the next morning we effected our landing without the least opposition: the 8th our army, after having marched 3 miles through the woods, enter'd a plain upon the north-east side of the Town and Harbour of the Havana in order to dislodge the enemy from a post which they had at the village of Guanavaisa, of about two thousand horse and foot, which was effected in very few minutes by our Light Infantry without difficulty or loss; almost ever since which time

we have been employed in investing the Moro, of which we make not the least doubt of having in our possession in very few days.

"A great many officers here have received letters from England by the Jamaica pacquet, which is a safe though not a very expeditious method of conveyance. I was a good deal surprised, and I can assure you not agreably so, at being disappointed of that pleasure; the more so as I have not missed one opportunity of writing. My Duty and Love to Lord and Lady Harcourt and my sister, and believe me to be, my Dear Brother, yours most affectionately,

"Wm. HARCOURT.

"*Head Quarters at*
"*Cojmar, July 16th*, 1762."

An hiatus of nine years now occurs in the correspondence. It commences again at the time of the rupture with Spain, which was so quickly healed.

From Colonel the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Leicester House, Feb. 12th*, 1771.

"DEAR SIR,—I am desired by Lord Masham to forward a letter which I believe contains his

acknowledgements for the most acceptable present you could have possibly made him, and to which I am a witness of his having done ample justice. I have since my return from Sudbury been pretty much taken up with our augmentation, which was to have consisted of one hundred and twenty-six; of which number we raised near ninety in the first month, and, had we not received orders to put a stop to our recruiting, should probably have been compleat before this time. I had, upon this occasion, recourse to those parts of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire where you raised my troop; and, though we did not experience the same readiness to engage as at the time our species of service was quite a novelty; nevertheless, we picked up a number of fine fellows, some of whom will much improve the regiment.

"The plan of the augmentation was to have added a Corporal and nine to each troop of Dragoons, a Serg^{t}, Corp^{l}, and nineteen to the Light Dragoons, a fourth battalion to the Artillery, and a light company to each of the regiments of Infantry; which, with the further addition of twenty men per company, would have made them consist of about seven hundred: the whole of the augmentation would have amounted to between 12 and 13 thousand; 4,400 of which, distributed among the different regiments of In-

fantry upon the British establishment, were to have been raised in the most Catholick provinces of Ireland; which wou'd at the same time have drained that country of some of its most disaffected inhabitants, and have provided an ample supply for the army. All these measures have been for some time suspended, and nothing now is wanting but the arrival of the Ratification, to bring us back to our former state of Supineness and Lethargy.

"The Declaration of the Court of Spain, and the acceptation of it, will both come under the consideration of Parliament; and, tho' there is no doubt of an address of approbation being carried, yet it will not be without a considerable opposition; as there are many people of opinion that, all circumstances considered, the reparation is by no means adequate to the injury. Lord G——r was on Monday last invested with the order of the Garter, an Honor which people of all parties think would have been bestowed with much more propriety upon ———. The Duke of A——r was undoubtedly a candidate for it, and was supported, probably by the means of the Dutchess, from a quarter I should hardly have suspected. A scheme has for some time been in agitation to bring a bill into Parliament for the more effectually recruiting of the forces of the East India Company, by empowering them

to maintain a Corps of 2,000 men in Great Britain to be composed of 1,400 English and 600 Germans. The officers were to have been appointed by the King; but the disposition of the Corps was to have remained entirely in the hands of the Company; who were to have had the power of sending annually to their settlements whatever number of men they shou'd think proper, provided it came within the establishment of the Corps.

"The permitting a Force of such consequence to be at the disposal of a Mercantile Company, independent of the government of the country; the allowing of so large and constant an emigration, ninety-nine out of a hundred of which would probably never return; the abuses a plan of this sort would have been liable to, from the interested views of ambitious individuals; and the difficulties it would have created to the recruiting of the army, have been thought such strong objections, that, though it was at first strongly espoused, I do not believe they will venture to attempt to carry it into execution.

"In my last trip to the country I paid a visit to my sister[a], who was in perfect health; that of her eldest son was much mended, and we have lately had still more favourable accounts. The death of your old friend Sir Andrew

[a] Lady Elizabeth Lee.

Mitchell occasions several removes in the Corps Diplomatique. Mr. Gunning goes to Berlin, Col. Keith to Copenhagen, and Mr. Osborn (a brother of Sir George's) has this day kissed hands upon being appointed to the Court of Dresden. As I am sure I must have tired you with so long a letter I shall only beg you to believe that I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. I am much obliged to you for the glasses, which were sufficiently large for the place I intended them."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Leicester House*, 20*th March*, 1772.

"DEAR SIR,—I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter, and I am much obliged to you for your information relative to the French army; shou'd the intention of assembling a corps in Flanders take place, I may perhaps have the curiosity to look at them; tho', I must confess, that desire is much abated since my tour to Germany, where I saw enough of the Austrians to convince me that they are infinitely superior to the others in all the essentials of the profession.

A propos to this subject, I am going in a few days to join the Regt; not, however, in any expectation of being seen by H.M.; who has thought proper to forego his Reviews of Cavalry for the summer, in consideration of the present extraordinary high price of forage.

"I do not know what credit I am to give to the opinion which prevails of your having refused ye Lieuty of Ireland: certain it is that the misconduct of Ld Townshend on one hand, and the bad disposition of the Parliament on the other, demand a change of men and measures; at the same time that it affords no very pleasing prospect to the person that may be appointed to succeed him. Added to this, the Counties of Down and Armagh, oppressed with the great and injudicious rise of rents of Lands, have made an insurrection; have assembled in large bodies of three or four thousand armed men; and have actually committed such outrages in the neighbourhood of Newry, that it has been judged necessary to reinforce the six companies cantoned in those parts with five more from the garrison of Dublin; besides which one of the Light Dragoon Regts has also been put in motion. This force will, it is hoped, prove sufficient to quell them, but this affair has so far alarmed Government on this side of the water, that it has actually had it in contemplation to send a reinforcement from Scotland; and

in consequence of it Gage's Regiment have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark.

"The attention of the public has for some time been engrossed with the Bill for regulating the marriages of the Royal Family, which passed the H. L. without much delay, and without any amendment. It has not escaped so in the H. C., where every part of it has been thoroughly debated; it has already taken up five long days, and must necessarily take up at least three more, as it has not even yet gone thro' the Committee. The principal objections which have been made have been to the Preamble, which asserts the care and approbation of the marriages of the R. F. has ever been vested in the Crown; to the clause which annuls all marriages contracted without that approbation; and to another which enacts that all persons accessory to such marriages shall be deemed guilty of a Premunire. The opposition have been in high spirits throughout this affair, and in the course of it have collected all their scattered forces, which upon some questions have proved very considerable; particularly upon the commitment of the bill, against which they divided 164 to 200.

"The grateful sense I ever have had, and ever shall retain, of your goodness to me will, I flatter myself, in some measure apologize for my troubling you with one word upon the subject of my

private affairs. I imagine it may have escaped your memory, that no less than twenty months have now elapsed since I have received any money upon account of the allowance you so generously settled upon me at my coming into Parliament. I do not mean to lay in the slightest claim to any part of that sum, but I must be ingenuous enough to confess that, depending upon such an increase of income, I have contracted expences which otherwise might most certainly have been dispensed with; which, added to an arrear upon the Civil list, has obliged me to defer the payments of some debts of too long a standing; I shall not trouble you with an enumeration of them, but I believe they may amount to about five hundred pounds.

"All that I can wish or desire is, that you would be pleased to order Mr. Cowden to let me have whatever sum you may judge proper upon account, and that, hereafter, when you may happen to be out of England, I might be allowed to draw upon him at certain periods. As I wrote to Blaquiere a few days since relative to his affair, which seems as far from being settled as it was six months ago, I shall only trouble you to remember me to him. I am, Dear Sir, ever your most Dutiful

"and most affectionate Son,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Leicester House, 7th June*, 1772.

"DEAR SIR,—I had last night the pleasure of your letter, acquainting me with your having accepted the Lord Lieutenancy. I most ardently wish that your views may be fully answered, and that the possession of this very high but arduous office may be attended with as few disagreable circumstances as possible. I have for some time purposely avoided writing to you, that I might not be obliged to pester you with the numerous and impertinent applications which have been made for more things than you may probably have in your disposal, shou'd you continue in office these seven years. The appointment of your Aids de Camp will, I am sure, do you credit; as they are in general officers of service, and, those I am acquainted with, persons of real merit.

"I wish you may not still be pressed with applications, particularly in favour of L[t]. Col. Douglas of the 3[rd] guards; shou'd that be the case, I shall most readily offer my services as an *Extraordinary Aid de Camp*, that you may be furnished with an additional argument against your having him, or indeed any other person, forced upon you. The world seems to be apprized of your wishes in

favour of Blaquiere; had you not already been acquainted with my sentiments upon this subject, I might have told you how this report was received; in doing so, at present, I might appear to give my own ideas in communicating to you those of the publick.

"The King saw the Regiment privately a few days ago: nothing could have gone off better; my most sanguine expectations were indeed more than answered. His Majesty has since been pleased to tell me he never knew any Regiment so much improved within a twelvemonth; that the order of the Regiment in general, and the attention of the officers and men, was very remarkable; that he must confess he had always been so partial to *Elliot's*, that he had declared that the day before the Review, if we could even, in his opinion, equal them, he should be sure we were in reality superior. I take it for granted you have been already informed of the promotion of gen[l] officers which have lately taken place—of gen[l] officers down to Burgoyne; of Colonels to Lord ——, and Lieut.-Colonels as far as Major Tucker; the abolishing of the rank of Cap[t].-Lieut. is a measure of much more real importance, the good effects of which must soon be sensibly felt.

"As I understand Lord Stormount is certainly to succeed you[b], it will probably be some time before

[b] As Ambassador in Paris.

you can fix a day for your departure. I shall, however, certainly pay my duty to you before your return to this country. I would not close this letter without acquainting you that *Lord Belvidere* lay at the point of Death on the last day of May; I had this intelligence from a person I can depend upon, who received it by *express* from Ireland.

"I am, Dear Sir, ever
"Your most dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. I must beg to be remembered to Blaquiere. I shall see Capt Goodenough to-morrow, and shall communicate to him his good fortune."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Leicester House, June 23rd*, 1772.

"DEAR SIR,—I received a few days ago the enclosed letter from Col. Burton, by which he appears to decline the honor you intended him of appointing him one of your Aids de Camp, but signifies his wishes of succeeding to the post of Secretary for the Northern Provinces; how far his abilities and connections may qualify him for that employment it is not for me to determine; but if

I am not much misinformed, it ought to be filled by a person in whom you can repose the most entire confidence. I have just seen Genl Burgoyne, who communicated to me your answer to his request. I cannot help perceiving, by the latter part of it, that you imagined I had not acquainted him with the purport of the letter you formerly wrote to me upon that subject. In this give me leave to assure you you have been mistaken; as I lost no time in telling him that, tho' you had at that time no intimation from the minister of your being thought of for Ireland, yet, should such an appointment take place, I had the strongest reason to believe you had already fixed upon another person for the employment of Secretary. I assured him at the same time of your favourable sentiments for him; but I knew you had a predilection for Blaquiere. The application which he has made to you subsequent to this conversation, arose, I am persuaded, from the general opinion which prevailed, that, notwithstanding the wishes you might have for Blaquiere, the objections to his appointment were so obvious, that you wou'd, in the end, be dissuaded from carrying them into execution.

"I most sincerely wish the world may prove mistaken in their opinion; tho' I will be free enough to confess that, with the most friendly disposition to B———e, I cannot in my heart

rejoice at his appointment. You have so often encouraged me to speak my sentiments, that you will not, I flatter myself, disapprove of my doing so, upon an occasion where my duty, my affection, and my zeal for your welfare all happen to concur. The accounts I sent you of Lord Belvidere's bad state of health was not without foundation; tho' that which has since prevailed of his death has proved premature. Blaquiere arrived here last Saturday, and has since been in the country with Lord R——d, but returns for the levée to-morrow. If I can arrange matters so as to exchange my waiting, which commences the 26th July, I shall endeavour to accompany him to France; otherwise it will be near the middle of August before I can have it in my power to pay my duty to you.

"Genrl Oughton arrived in town about a week ago in good health and tolerable spirits, considering the intricate and distressful situation of his affairs; to compleat his misfortunes, the person whom he has appointed his agent in the room of Oldham is likely to be a sufferer by the Bankruptcy of Fordice; luckily, however, he has not I believe any money in his hands. Poor Weston is as happy and as grateful as might have been expected. I cannot avoid expressing the satisfaction I felt upon hearing of your having provided in so noble a manner for so worthy a man.

I have not hitherto made the slightest acknowledgment to you for the appointment of my friend Col. Patterson; but I had not, till B——'s arrival, presumption enough to imagine that that appointment had taken place in consequence of my having mentioned him to you as an able officer and as a very worthy man. B. tells me you depended upon me to announce to him his good fortune; but as you only acquainted me with his appointment together with the rest of the Aids de Camp, I think I cannot with propriety write to him upon that subject unless authorized by you. I have only to assure you that I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Nuneham, July 8th*, 1772.

"DEAR SIR,—Col. Blaquiere having delivered to me your message relative to the visit I proposed myself the pleasure of making to you, I have, in consequence of it, given up all thoughts of that tour; but shall, instead of it, most cheerfully attend you to Ireland, and shall, during your residence in that country, devote to you as large a portion of my time as I can spare from the

business of the Regiment. I was once fully determined against troubling you with any of the numerous, and, in general, impertinent applications which I have been desired to make to you for different posts in your gift; but, as I have found that my brother has thought it more desirable to transmit such applications to you without offering any sollicitations of his own upon them, I propose, for the future, to do the same, unless you signify your pleasure to the contrary.

"I am to acquaint you, that I am desired by Gen^{rl} Oughton to apprize you of an application which will probably be made to you by S^{r} Eyre Coote in favour of his brother; a well beneficed, ambitious clergyman, who is now possessed of a Deanery, together with other Church preferments, to the amount of £1,600 a year; all which he, of his great goodness, is willing to give the presentation of to your Excellency for the moderate consideration of a Bishoprick. Whether it may answer your purpose to gratify him in his wishes the Gen^{rl} did not offer any opinion; but mentioned it merely as a matter for your consideration, whether it might not be the means of attaching to you a family which, from having two Peers belonging to it, must necessarily have some weight in that country; and who, from having been violent in opposition, are desirous of standing forth as the first supporters of your government. I have sent you enclosed two letters which I have lately received, the first from Major Brooke, brother to S^{r} Arthur Brooke (an Irish member of Parliament). I have acquainted him I wou'd transmit his request to you, but that I know your Aids de Camp had been long since fixed upon, and that I was well assured numberless applications had already been made to you. The other is from a M^{r}. Cuthbertson, with whom I was formerly well acquainted when he was Adj^{t} and afterwards a Captain in Lord Percy's Regiment; but, from motives of private convenience, and, as he asserts, in order to provide for a large family, having quitted the service, is desirous of furnishing your Household as a Clothier; in which business it seems he is now engaged. I know nothing of him in this latter capacity, but in the former one he served long and with great credit and reputation.

"I have now done with Irish affairs, tho' not with troubling you; which I take the liberty of doing in favour of a M^{r}. Leigh, a young man of some fortune, who has lately purchased a Cornetcy in the Regiment, and has obtained leave to go to Strasburgh for eight months, it having been recommended to his relations as the best place to form a young man for the Army. If a letter of recommendation cou'd be obtained from any of your military friends, it might

possibly gain him admission to the Academy, or at least to the Masters of it; this will much oblige a particular friend of mine, Cap[t] Williams, who is a kind of guardian to him. I am just going to call upon my sister for a few days in my way to Town; where I am going in order to take my waiting, which commences on the 26[th]. It is not without regret I leave this place, which is in the highest beauty imaginable. You will be glad to hear something of the hay harvest. Lord's Mead[c], &c., was entirely finished this day, almost without a drop of rain, and the seventy-five Loads of Hay which are set up at the Ox Pen were got in in the most perfect order. The upper grounds, where there appears the largest crop, were not begun to be mow'd till four or five days ago; and I believe it will be at least a fortnight before the Hay will be carried. I had last night the pleasure of receiving your letter, and am glad to hear from Blaquiere the King's leave is given for your return the first week in August, without waiting for Lord Stormount's arrival. As my Brother writes by this Post I have only to assure you I am ever, Dear Sir,

"Your most dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"W[m]. HARCOURT."

[c] The meadow just opposite the terrace at Nuneham.

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Harcourt House, April 3rd*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—I received your last letter on Thursday; but, as I was hurried from the Regiment, at a very short notice, to take my leave of Gen[rl] Burgoyne before he set off for Portsmouth, and as I have been continually employed since my arrival here, I have not till this moment had an opportunity of acknowledging it. Your last kind offer relative to the Plate affords me no small satisfaction; not that I mean to avail myself of it in its full extent, but because it ensures me your approbation of the order I had already given relative to that matter. The fact is the Tureens would be of small service, as the circular one in which the plates are packed is quite sufficient for that purpose; with regard to the additional dozen of Plates, I might perhaps have been induced to trespass so far upon your indulgence, but that the things are already finished and packed; the deep dish and lamp will be extremely useful, and (till you so kindly mentioned it) entirely escaped my memory. I certainly directed Giles to procure me a couple of mules, but as he did not procure them within six weeks after my arrival here, I had given up all thoughts

of them, and had accordingly bought one here. This being the case, I must desire him to dispose of those he has bought for me, and I must also desire Mr. Jackson to satisfy him for his trouble. I have at last entirely settled my own affairs, and got two or three good servants: my own man is a Swiss, and was settled at Berlin, but, as H.M. of Prussia thought him a good recruit for Werner's hussars, he was immediately placed in that corps, and, after serving three campaigns, was taken prisoner at Colberg; my cook, who is also a foreigner, has passed some years in America, in the services of Lord Dunmore and General Gage, the last of whom he quitted upon his return to England; my groom, who had an extraordinary good character, has carried horses to the West Indies, and is thoroughly acquainted with the method of taking care of them while on board ship.

"I have already acquainted you with General Burgoyne's departure on Saturday last. The Brunswickers arrived at Portsmouth a few days before, a sad sample of what is to be expected; no intermediate age between grandfathers and grand-children, with Coaches and every other impediment for their officers, and without a necessary for their men. The generals marched, or rather reeled off the Parade, but as they have been seen no less than *seven times* by H. M., are already

supposed to be much improved, they are now on their march to Portsmouth, and will embark the moment their transports get round. The dilatoriness of the Ordnance is much complain'd of, several of the artillery officers loitering in London when the Fleet ought to have been underway, and the Light Artillery, together with all its appurtenances, did not leave Woolwich till 12 o'clock this day, and was then ordered to be conveyed by land to Portsmouth.

"I have great reason to be satisfied with our last Augmentation, particularly the Irish, who have behaved as well as possible. It is not now above a fortnight since we have had arms, and there are already above two thirds of the men completely fit for service. Many of our Transports are not yet arrived, but, as they are to be fitted up at Portsmouth instead of the River, I expect that we shall be embarked in about a month. I have not forgot your Mares, but as yet I have not had any answer from Westbury.

"I am, Dear Sir,

"Ever your most Dutiful

"and most affectionate Son,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Harcourt House, May 23rd*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—Though hurry of business has prevented my acknowledging as soon as I ought to have done the appointment of Major Kingston, you will not, I persuade myself, upon that account, think I am the less sensible of your very kind attention to my recommendation of a friend whose interest I have extremely at heart.

"Convinced as I have been for many weeks of the fixed determination of sending us to America, I must own that the repeated accounts I receiv'd of the difficulties they met with in procuring transports induced me to think that they wou'd, at last, have been obliged to give up that part of their plan; I can, however, now inform you that every obstacle is removed, and that we shall certainly embark about Monday fortnight: the Dismounted part of the Regiment, which I have vanity enough to think are at least as well trained and much better armed and appointed than any Light Infantry in the army, are now in the neighbourhood of London, and will be seen by H. M. on their march on Saturday next. My Brother having informed you of the extraordinary letter I received from a person who calls himself a Mr. John

Harcourt, I shall only add that, had my mind been less engaged, I might possibly have thought more of a matter, the first appearance of which is certainly dazzling. Situated as I am at present, I could not do more than procure a sight of the girl at Ranelagh, and make some enquiries about her family, connexions, &c.; with respect to her person, I cannot say that it is either disgusting or the contrary, but I find that the father is a vulgar fellow, the son of a Timber Merchant, and that he has already offered his daughter to half a dozen different people, amongst whom are Chas. Fox and Lord Bolingbroke, who have all of them broke off upon the subject of settlement. What their views were in thinking of me, and whether this unknown Couzen may not have had a more interested motive than that of keeping up with a family, with whom, bye-the-bye, he has not the slightest acquaintance, I will not attempt to determine; but I am free to declare that I would rather marry an amiable woman, one whom I liked, with one tenth part of the fortune, than this girl with all her pretentions, and, what is worse, with all her family.

"I have now got every article of equipment in perfect readiness, and I am more and more pleased with the Plate you have been so good as to give me; you shall certainly hear from me before my embarkation, and by any opportunity which may

occur during the passage. Major Kingston, grateful for the favor you have confer'd upon him, desired me to forward the enclosed to you, but as I had not leisure to write during the short stay I made at the Regiment, I defer'd sending it till this time. I must beg you to make my remembrances acceptable to all friends, not forgetting Hamilton and Lees; and I am, Dear Sir, with every sentiment of Duty and affection,

"Ever yours,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Guilford, June 24th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—Though the continual hurry in which I have been for some time has prevented my writing to you as frequently as I ought to have done, I will not let slip one moment in congratulating you upon your late success; which affords me the greater satisfaction as it shows your weight and personal influence in the strongest manner, and will, I hope, prove the last difficulty you are to encounter during your administration. I have now only to hope that —— will at last be awakened to a just sense of the many important services you have rendered him, and that you may at last reap the fruit of all your labour.

As I know you have been uniformly of opinion that we shou'd not be sent to America, you wou'd not have been surprised to have heard that an embarkation was at last countermanded. I am now to inform you that I have this night received orders to march for Portsmouth forthwith; and I shall accordingly hope to arrive there so as to compleat the embarkation of the Regiment on Thursday next. The last Division of Hessians, Brunswickers, &c., &c, &c., are now at Spithead, and wait only for a fair wind to proceed to their different destinations.

"There are accounts from Quebec as late as the 25th May, which mention the arrival of Genrl Burgoyne. The Guards and first Division of Hessians were all well on the 30th May, off the Azores or Western Islands; not one ship had then parted company, and they expected to make the American coast in about three weeks from that time. Major Kingston wou'd have been at his Post before this, had he not had a plan in agitation for getting to America; whether he will succeed or not a very few days must now determine, but, thus circumstanced, I must confess that I have rather advised than dissuaded his remaining here till the beginning of the next week; after which time, should he not succeed, which I think likely to be the case, he will set off immediately for Ireland.

"I believe I informed you in my last letter that I had taken some steps towards securing a passage in a Man of War; but as the Convoy was not then appointed, and as Lord Charles Spencer, who had undertaken to make the application for me, has lately been out of town, I have not had an opportunity of reminding him of it. I flatter myself, however, that your mind will be perfectly at ease when I tell you that the transport in which I propose to embark is an extreme good sailor, remarkably strong, and very commodious: and what is of still more consequence, that I am sure of having the agent of the transports with me, who is a Lieutenant of a Man of War, and as I am informed an extreme intelligent man; in short, I shall have every advantage of a Man of War without any of the inconveniences. You may expect to hear from me once more before I sail, and by every opportunity afterwards. I must beg you to believe me, Dear Sir, ever your most Dutiful and most affectionate son,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

"P.S. Your commands will find Mr. Kingston at Mr. Serle's, Jermyn Street. The following is the purport of the news brought by the Pacquet which arrived on Sunday last from Quebec:—part of the 8th Regiment, with some of the Indians,

hearing of the defeat of the Provincials by Genrl Carleton, assembled and cut off their retreat, killed several and took upwards of 500 Prisoners."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Portsmouth, June 29th*, 1776.

DEAR SIR,—I can at last inform you that the Regiment are now all on board, and, as the wind is very fair, we shall fall down to St. Helens this evening, and proceed with the morning tide.

"It was intended that we should have sailed with the last Division of Hessians; but as six of the Transports, which contained all the Field Equipage of the Regiment, did not arrive here till Thursday evening, I could not compleat the embarkation till this moment. The rest of the Fleet have therefore sailed, leaving a Twenty Gun Ship for our Convoy. The embarkation consists of near 5,000 Hessians and Waldeckers, 850 German Recruits, Burgoyne's Regiment, 240, and the dismounted Division of that and Preston's, 388, together with 856 Baggage Horses.

"Lord Winchelsea has suddenly determined to be of our party, and has actually embarked on board Captain Fielding's ship.

"I have only time to assure you that I am, with every sentiment of gratitude and affection,

"Dear Sir,
"Your most Dutyful Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Falmouth, July 19th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—When I did myself the pleasure of writing to you from St. Helens, I still flattered myself that we might have arrived at New York time enough to have seen something of this Campaign ; but the winds have hitherto proved so unfavourable, that, after making two unsuccessful attempts to get clear of the Channel, we have again been obliged to put back, and are now at this place replenishing our Water and Forage.

"The Fleet with the Hessians, &c., which sailed a few days before us, were heard of at Plymouth ; but as the wind is now quite fair I imagine they have sailed again this morning, in which case we may probably join them, though our wishes are to avoid that embarrassment as much as possible. My Horses are all perfectly well, and, though we have had some rough weather, we have lost but

four horses in the whole Regiment. I rely upon your goodness to excuse this almost illegible scrawl, and I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*New York, October 7th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—As I missed the opportunity of a vessel which sailed from hence the day after my arrival, I am determined to lose no time in acquainting you with my having at last landed in perfect health.

"I flatter myself we embarked in very good order ; but the winds have been so contrary, and, of course, the passage so tedious, that we have lost 39 Horses ; and, what is still worse, have parted company with one of our Transports, in which was embarked Captain Lester and about half his Troop, whom I have now too much reason to believe have fallen into the enemy's hands.

"The Army has not made any motion of consequence since the 15th of September, when they landed and drove the rebels from a very advantageous post, and in consequence of it took possession of New York.

"As the Enemy's Intrenchments extend quite across the Island, I imagine we shall scarcely undertake any offensive operation till the arrival of the last reinforcement of Hessians, which are waited for with impatience. I have only to beg you to assure my Lady Nuneham, my Brother and Sister, of my most affectionate remembrances, and

"I am, Dear Sir,
"ever your most Dutiful Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Brunswick, December 5th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—Having already written to you by two other opportunities, I shall at present trouble you with a very short letter to inform you of my being in perfect health after a most fatigueing but very successful Expedition under Lord Cornwallis, which has given us possession of a great part of the Jerseys. The rebels quitted this place on Sunday last in the utmost consternation, and, had the weather continued favourable, I make no doubt that another month would have given us possession of Philadelphia.

"I must beg to be remembered to Lady Nuneham, my Sister, and my Brother, and I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Brunswick, December 17th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—It is with very particular satisfaction I can acquaint you that our Campaign is at last closed with an event in which I had some little share. I mean the taking of General Lee, whom I surprised in his Quarters and made Prisoner, together with a French Lieut.-Colonel, almost within sight of his Army. Captain Eustace, Aid de Camp to Lord Cornwallis, and who was with me upon this little expedition, is kind enough to charge himself with this letter, and will inform you of any particulars you may wish to be acquainted with. I have only time to add that I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. I must beg to be remembered to my

Sister, Lady Nuneham, and my Brother. I have just received your letter by Major Cuyller, who arrived here last night."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Brunswick, December 19th*, 1776.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—The very busy scene in which I have been engaged during the last three months having made it difficult for me to write to you, I cannot take too early an opportunity after the close of the Campaign to acquaint you of the very sincere satisfaction I feel at the news of your being perfectly recovered of a disorder which, though not dangerous, must have been extremely alarming.

"I am not going to torment you with a detail of our military operations, but you will I am sure rejoice with me in the probability of our passing a quiet winter, and still more so in the prospect of a speedy conclusion to this most unhappy contest. The uninterrupted success we have met with in the course of this long Campaign, and the taking of the most active and most enterprizing of the Enemy's Generals (I mean Mr. Lee, whom I have been fortunate enough to make my prisoner without the loss of a single man), has given us so marked a superiority, that

it seems to be the universal opinion the rebels will no longer refuse treating upon the terms which have been offered them. Whenever that desirable event takes place, I shall not delay one moment in making my application for leave to return to England. I must beg you to thank my Sister for three letters which, excepting the one I have lately received from my Father, are the only letters which have yet reached me. I must beg you to make my affectionate remembrances acceptable to Lady Nuneham and the Tormentor, and I am, my Dear Brother, ever

"most affectionately yours

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Brunswick, December 19th*, 1776.

"DEAR SIR,—Though I have not at present time enough to answer your very kind letter of the 15th September, I will not let slip this opportunity of assuring you how much I feel myself obliged to you for the notice you have taken of my friend Sir John Russell. You are so well acquainted with the very sincere friendship which has so long subsisted between us, that I am per-

suaded I have no occasion to repeat to you that any mark of your favour to him claims my most grateful acknowledgements.

"In my letter of yesterday I informed you of the event, though not of the particulars, of the Expedition in the course of which General Lee became my prisoner. It now appears that that General had passed the North River with a very considerable Corps about ten days before. So ill informed, however, were we of all his motions, that the latest account was positive as to his *not* having passed the river, and doubtful whether he had not retreated towards New England. In this situation of affairs I offered my services to Lord Cornwallis, to procure intelligence of the Enemy's situation by the means of a Pattrolle. His Lordship upon this, as indeed upon every other occasion, treated me in the most obliging manner, accepted my offer, and gave me his directions. I accordingly marched the next morning, with a party of three Officers and thirty men, above forty miles into the Enemy's Country; surprised the General within a mile and a half of his Army, and, after some fire, had the good fortune to take him prisoner and make my retreat by another road without the loss of a single man. I do not mean to exaggerate to you this little service, but only to explain to you that if General Howe's letter (*which I am told is very flattering*

to me) tends *only* to recommend me for the rank at *the end* of a long list of Officers who in point of *length* of service have certainly superior claims, I will candidly confess to you that I shall by no means be satisfied; in short, Sir, I think I may now fairly lay in my claim for that preference which I should formerly have disdained to have availed myself of merely upon the footing of my situation in life. Having said thus much I can only add that ignorant of your present situation, but sensible, I flatter myself, of that weight of obligation which I owe to you and *you alone*, I would much rather forego any private advantage than give you the slightest embarrassment. With these sentiments I must beg leave to say that I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

GENERAL ORDERS.

"The Commander in Chief has it in express command to signify His Majesty's Royal approbation as well of the readiness with which Lieut.-Colonel Harcourt undertook the Command of the Detachment that made General Lee a prisoner, as of the address and gallantry manifested by him on that critical occasion."

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In an appendix to a Memoir of Captain William Glanville Evelyn, written by Mr. Scull, an account appears of the capture of General Lee by Colonel Harcourt. Mr. Scull writes :—

"The capture of General Lee by Lieut.-Col. " Harcourt (on Dec. 13, 1776) was a great event " at the time, as the former was looked upon by " many as second only to Washington, and he " was called the 'Palladium of American liberty.' " From the appearance of the following extract " in the 'New York Gazette,' of Jan. 16, 1777, it " would seem that it was suspected at the time " that Lee had been treacherously betrayed; but " it is now believed that the English account " (which substantially agrees with Bancroft and " Lossing) is the correct version of the way in " which Lee's place of retreat was discovered by " Colonel Harcourt. The 'New York Gazette' " of July 16, 1777, contains an account of the " taking of General Lee, as published by Order " of Congress :—

"'Intelligence of General Lee's unguarded situ-
"'ation was given to the enemy the day before
"'by an inhabitant of Baskenridge, personally
"'known to the General, and who, though under
"'great profession of friendship for the American

"'cause, was at heart the greatest deceiver that
"'ever existed. This Judas rode all the preced-
"'ing night to carry the intelligence, and serve as
"'a pilot to conduct the enemy, and came person-
"'ally with them to the house where the General
"'was taken.' It is stated that Colonel Harcourt,
" before he left England, expressed hopes that he
" should take General Lee. He arrived in New
" York in the first week in October, 1776, in the
" 'Lapwing,' which had several transports under
" convoy, having on board the 16th Regiment of
" Light Horse under his Command.

"Colonel Harcourt (13 Dec. 1776) was out on " a reconnoitring expedition with about 30 Light " Dragoons. He passed the picket of the Pro- " vincials, of one hundred men, who did not turn " out, supposing a larger body of the British troops " near. He soon observed a man on foot, going " with great expedition, whom he imagined to be " a spy, and had him secured. On searching " him, a letter was found, the wafer not yet dry, " directed to General Washington from General " Lee. The man was informed that if he did not " immediately conduct them to the house where " the gentleman was who gave him the letter, " immediate death would be his lot. He com- " plied; the house (which was about three miles " from the Provincial army) was surrounded, and " General Lee, on hearing the firing, ran to the

" door with two French officers, one of whom, hav-
" ing exclaimed, 'we are taken,' raised his fusee to
" take aim at Colonel Harcourt, which he observ-
" ing, stooped his head, and the shot carried away
" the ribbon of his hair, wounding him slightly.
" The Frenchman was at once dispatched by the
" Dragoons.

"An officer, in a letter dated from New York,
" Dec. 21, 1776, states, that when Colonel Har-
" court aproached the house with his men, they
" received a fire from a guard that was in an
" outhouse; the two Sentinels were killed, with
" several others (one account says seven or eight),
" without any loss on our side. This statement is
" at variance with General James Wilkinson's, who
" was in the house at the time. In his memoir
" he says, that, as the morning was cold, the
" guard had left their arms for a few moments,
" and were sunning themselves a little distance
" away. Colonel Harcourt wrote to his Father
" that he captured Lee without the loss of a
" single man, and after some fire retreated by
" another road. Lee's behaviour was dastardly
" to the last. He got up into a corner, delivered
" his sword, and said he hoped his life was safe,
" and that it was terrible to be thus taken, when
" he had so many glorious schemes in hand.
" Colonel Harcourt told him he would be well
" used. 'By you, I may,' says Lee, 'but what am

"'I to expect from the Howes?' General Lee
" was seized, and led to the door bareheaded.
" He asked to be allowed to go upstairs for his
" hat, but Colonel Harcourt replied, 'No, Mr.
"' Lee, you can take a ride for once without your
"' hat!' He was bound to the horse of a guide,
" both legs and arms being well pinioned, and
" galloped off with such speed, that they went
" twenty miles in an hour and a quarter.

"'Only four minutes,' Bancroft says, 'had
"' elapsed from the time of this surrounding of
"' the house before they started off on their return.'
" Lee did not complain to the Colonel, but told
" him for several miles he was not yet sure of
" his prey; but finding no rescue, which he ex-
" pected as they passed almost through his out-
" parties, his spirits failed him, and he became
" sullen. For the first twenty-four hours he was
" defiant, the English accounts say insolent, and
" complained bitterly to General Howe of the
" bad usage he met with. General Howe replied
" by a card, which was addressed to him as
" Colonel Lee, the rank which he held in the
" English army before his defection. He seemed
" much depressed after the receipt of this card.

"He was taken eventually to Brunswick, and
" placed under a Captain's guard with two Subal-
" terns. He sent to General Grant for money, but
" was refused, on the plea that he did not lack

" necessaries. He was very meanly dressed, and
" sent for a tailor to mend his clothes, 'but not
"' a man in the Regiment,' one of the officers
" writes, 'would work for so great a rascal, as
"' the gentlemen tailors called him.'

" The other Frenchman, Gayault, who had been
" with Lee only two days, as his Aide de Camp,
" and who, in endeavouring to escape into the
" woods, was captured, was to be one of his
" Colonels, but he had not yet received his
" Commission. Colonel Harcourt met a York-
" shireman who was acquainted with the Country,
" and had him for a guide. He ordered the
" Frenchman to get up behind him, but he, not
" being so alert as the Yorkshireman wished,
" received a knock on the head with a pistol,
" which so offended him, that he has not been in
" temper since; the indignity of being struck by
" a peasant is too mortifying for him; yet this
" fellow, in his own Country, had not the rank of
" a gentleman. Another account states that Mon-
" sieur Gayault had been a Colonel in France.
" An English officer who had been acquainted
" with Gayault, says in a letter, 'I saw Mr. Gay-
"' ault, the Frenchman who was taken prisoner
"' with General Lee, at Brunswick, on his arrival
"' with him; I provided him with quarters, where
"' he was taken good care of, and supplied him
"' with necessaries, and he was at liberty to walk

"' about. Mr. Gayault informed me that he was
"' only two days with General Lee, as Aide de
"' Camp. That when he heard the firing of the
"' Light Dragoons, he run out hastily, and was
"' taken prisoner.'

" When General Lee was brought into the Brit-
" ish Camp he demanded to be received under the
" proclamation; but on being refused the benefit
" thereof, and told that he would be tried as
" a deserter, he flew into a most unbounded rage,
" and exclaimed against the repeated acts of false
" faith and treachery which reduced him to his
" present situation. A letter from New York to
" the writer's friend in Ireland, dated January 2,
" 1777, says: — 'Yesterday, General Lee and
"' Colonel Robert Livingstone were brought to
"' town from the Jerseys, and confined in the old
"' City hall. They were taken in the house of
"' Captain Richards, (Bancroft and Lossing say at
"' Mrs. White's inn at Baskingridge), about a mile
"' from Trenton. I went this morning to the City
"' hall to see my relation, poor Livingstone, but
"' it made my heart ache to see him weep and
"' lament. He said he would have made his peace
"' agreeable to the Commissioners' proclamation
"' some time ago, but General Lee advised him
"' to keep his hands clear of it, as it was only
"' a trap to kidnap people.' A paragraph in a
" newspaper of that period says that General Lee

" brooked his confinement very ill, and frequently
" behaved as if he was not in his perfect mind.
" Another account states that on the 20th of April,
" 1777, the correspondent found General Lee con-
" fined in a very decent room in the guard-house,
" contiguous to which was a small room in which
" he slept; he was accompanied by the officers in
" guard over him, with whom he freely conversed,
" but never on the subject of the disputes with the
" Colonies.

" He was allowed all the necessaries of life, and
" amongst others a bottle of wine *per diem*. He
" was very careless in his apparel, and generally
" wore a brown short coat, or rather jacket. It
" was currently reported then that a Lieutenant
" General, second in Command to Lee, his Aide
" de Camp, an engineer, and two sergeants, all
" Frenchmen, who were taken at the same time
" with Lee, were prisoners on board the 'Inflexible'
" man-of-war, at the Nore. After the capture of
" Lee, General Washington sent a formal message
" to General Howe, demanding General Lee, and,
" according to the terms of the Cartel, offering
" Colonel Campbell, and three other Colonels,
" then prisoners, for him. General Howe refused
" to exchange General Lee upon any terms, upon
" which General Washington ordered the four
" Colonels to be sent to prison. Colonel Har-
" court having applied for leave of absence, to

" return to England, it was intended that General
" Lee should have been taken over with him, if
" the current rumour is to be believed; and it
" is stated that he was put on board a vessel three
" several times in New York, in order to be brought
" to England; and the ship was absolutely, so the
" story runs, under sail, when Washington's second
" letter to General Howe arrived in New York,
" offering to exchange General Prescott for Gene-
" ral Lee. His exchange was finally effected, and
" General Lee was released.

" The Capture of General Lee, when it was
" known in England, raised great hopes there of
" an early termination of the war. There was
" great rejoicing throughout the Country, by those
" who sided with the Ministerial Views of the ne-
" cessity of Coercion. The following advertise-
" ment was stuck in the Market place at Tring in
" Hertfordshire, Feb. 13, 1777:—'This is to give
"' Notis that Thursday next will be helld as a day
"' of regoicin in commemoration of the takin of
"' General Lee, when their will be a sermint
"' preached, & other public demonstrascions of
"' joye, after which will bee an nox roasted whole
"' & everery mark of festivety & bell ringing im-
"' agenable, with a ball & cock fighting at night
"' in the hassembly room at the black Lyone.

"' JAMES CLINCH,
"' Parish Clerk and Cryer.'

"Upon Earl Harcourt's going to the King's
"Levee, March 1, 1777, after the news of General
"Lee's being taken, the King came eagerly up
"to him,—'Oh! my Lord, your son has behaved
"'with the utmost gallantry; it gives me the ut-
"'most pleasure, and I doubt not it does the same
"'to you,' which pleased his Lordship not a little.
"His Majesty added, 'I shall take care of Colonel
"'Harcourt; leave his fortune to me.'

"On more than one occasion during the war in
"America Colonel Harcourt was indebted to the
"thoroughbred horse he rode for the preservation
"of his life. Once during the operations around
"Trenton, he was out on a scouting party, and
"suddenly came upon a strong force of Pro-
"vincials. He put his horse at a high fence, but
"not being able to quite clear it, would have
"tumbled, had not the top rail, being a little
"decayed, given way, and let them over. A long
"distance was soon placed between the pursuers
"and the pursued, for Colonel Harcourt's horse
"was remarkably fleet. This horse is said to have
"lived to the extraordinary age of fifty years.
"The late Mr. G. P. R. James, the novelist, who
"resided in Richmond, Virginia, as British Consul
"for several years, told a friend of Mr. B. J. Los-
"sing's, in 1851, that he possessed a drawing of
"Colonel Harcourt, and of the horse he rode on
"the occasion of Lee's capture.

"For the capture of Lee Colonel Harcourt
"received the thanks of Parliament, which docu-
"ment is still in the possession of the present
"head of the Harcourt family. In 1783 he was
"raised to the rank of Lieutenant General, and
"in the following year he commanded the British
"forces in Holland. In 1809 he succeeded to his
"title on the death of his elder brother, and
"shortly after the coronation of George IV. was
"created a Field-Marshal. Colonel Harcourt
"fully merited all the rewards he received; for
"he was a brave soldier, and as staunch a sup-
"porter of government in the senate as he had
"been in the field. He married in 1778, but
"left no issue, and the Harcourt property passed
"through a female line to the present possessor,
"Colonel Edward William Harcourt, M.P., of
"Nuneham Park, Abingdon, and Stanton Har-
"court, Oxon.

"At an early period of his military career,
"General Lee, whilst stationed at Schenectady,
"was thrown much with the Mohawk Indians, who
"surrounded that port. They became so fond
"of him, that they adopted him into their tribe
"under the name of Ounewaterika, or boiling
"water. This soubriquet was particularly appro-
"priate to Lee's character, for he was the very
"incarnation of feverish and restless energy. He
"was once in the service of the King of Portugal,

" and the following paragraph will shew the esti-
" mation with which he was regarded by him :—
" 'Tis said that the King of Portugal left
" 'legacies to all the foreign officers, as low as
" 'Colonels, who served with him during the war,
" 'except Col. Lee (now in custody in New York) ;
" 'his restless and ambitious spirit was even then
" 'taken notice of, and rendered him despised.'
" The foregoing account of General Lee's cap-
" ture has been carefully compiled from the news-
" papers of that period, which contain numerous
" letters from officers and gentlemen at the seat
" of war and in New York, during the years
" 1776-8. Other reliable sources of information
" have also been drawn upon."

From "Memoirs, &c., of General James Wilkinson," vol. i. pp. 101, 102 :—

" BRIGADE MAJOR WILKINSON was despatched
" on the morning of Dec. 12, 1776, with a letter
" from General Gates to General Washington.
" At midnight he entered a wayside tavern, and
" roused up Col. George Gibson, and Joseph
" Nourse, Esq. (the Registrar of the Treasury),
" who directed him where to find General Lee,

" as they had parted from him the evening be-
" fore. About 4 a.m. he reached Lee's quarters,
" at White's tavern, on Baskingridge. Wilkinson
" states that 'I was presented to the General as
" 'he lay in bed, and delivered into his hands
" 'the letter of General Gates. He examined
" 'the superscription, and observed it was ad-
" 'dressed to General Washington, and declined
" 'opening it until I apprised him of the con-
" 'tents, and the motives of my visit. He then
" 'broke the seal and read it, after which he de-
" 'sired me to take repose. I lay down on my
" 'blanket before a comfortable fire, amidst the
" 'officers of his suite ; for we were not in those
" 'days encumbered with beds or baggage. I
" 'arose at the dawn, but could not see the Gen-
" 'eral, with whom I had been previously ac-
" 'quainted, before 8 o'clock. After some inquiries
" 'respecting the conduct of the campaign on the
" 'Northern frontier, he gave me a brief account
" 'of the operations of the grand army, which he
" 'condemned in strong terms. He observed that
" 'our siege of Boston had led us into great errors;
" 'that the attempt to defend islands against a
" 'superior land and naval force was madness ;
" 'that Sir William Howe could have given us
" 'checkmate at his discretion, and that we owed
" 'our salvation to his indolence, or disinclination
" 'to terminate the war.

"'"When I reached the army on York Island,"
"'said Lee, "all hands were busily employed in
"'collecting materials, and erecting barracks;
"'and I found little Mifflin exulting in the pros-
"'pect of fine winter quarters at Kingsbridge.
"'I replied to him, 'Winter quarters here, Sir,
"'and the British Army still in the field! Go
"'set fire to those you have built, and get away
"'by the light, or Sir William Howe will find
"'quarters for you.'" General Lee wasted the
"'morning in altercation with certain militia
"'corps who were of his command, particularly
"'the Connecticut Light Horse, several of whom
"'appeared in large full-bottomed perukes, and
"'were treated very irreverently. The call of
"'the Adjutant-General for orders also occupied
"'some of his time, and we did not sit down to
"'breakfast before 10 o'clock.

"'General Lee was engaged in answering Gen-
"'eral Gates' letter, and I had arisen from the
"'table, and was looking out of an end window,
"'down a lane about a hundred yards in length,
"'which led to the house from the main road,
"'when I discovered a party of British Dragoons
"'turn a corner of the avenue at a full charge.
"'Startled at the unexpected spectacle I ex-
"'claimed, "Here, Sir, are the British Cavalry!"
"'"Where?" replied the General, who had signed
"'his letter on the instant. "Around the house,"

"'for they had opened files, and encompassed
"'the building. General Lee appeared alarmed,
"'yet collected; and his second observation
"'marked his self-possession: "Where is the
"'guard? d—n the guard, why don't they fire?"
"'and after a momentary pause he turned to me
"'and said, "Sir, see what has become of the
"'guard." The women of the house at this mo-
"'ment came into the room, and proposed to
"'him to conceal himself in a bed, which he
"'rejected with evident disgust. I caught up
"'my pistols, which lay on the table, thrust the
"'letter he had been writing into my pocket,
"'and passed into a room at the opposite end
"'of the house, where I had seen the guard in
"'the morning. Here I discovered their arms;
"'but the men were absent. I stepped out of
"'the door, and perceived the Dragoons chasing
"'them in different directions; and receiving a
"'very uncivil salutation, I returned into the
"'house. Too inexperienced immediately to pen-
"'etrate the motives of this enterprise, I con-
"'sidered the rencontre accidental; and from the
"'terrible tales spread over the country of the
"'violence and barbarity of the enemy, I believed
"'it to be a wanton murdering party, and de-
"'termined not to die without company.

"'I accordingly sought a position where I
"'could not be approached by more than one

"'person at a time, and, with a pistol in each
"'hand, I awaited the expected search, resolved
"'to shoot the first and the second person who
"'might appear, and then to appeal to my
"'sword. I did not remain very long in this
"'unpleasant situation, but was apprised of the
"'object of the incursion by the very audible
"'declaration, "If the General does not surrender
"'in five minutes, I will set fire to the house!"
"'which, after a short pause, was repeated with
"'a solemn oath; and within two minutes I
"'heard it proclaimed, "Here is the General; he
"'has surrendered!" A general shout ensued, the
"'trumpet sounded the assembly, and the un-
"'fortunate Lee, mounted on my horse, which
"'stood ready at the door, was hurried off in
"'triumph, bare-headed, in his slippers and blan-
"'ket-coat, his collar open, and his shirt very
"'much soiled from several days' use.

"'What a lesson of caution is to be derived
"'from this event, and how important the ad-
"'monition furnished by it! What an evidence
"'of the caprice of fortune, and of the fallibility
"'of ambitious projects, and the inscrutable ways
"'of heaven! The capture of General Lee was
"'felt as a public calamity; it cast a gloom over
"'the country, and excited general sorrow. This
"'sympathy was honourable to the people, and
"'due to the stranger who had embarked his

"'fortune with theirs, and determined to share
"'their fate, under circumstances of more than
"'common peril. Although this misfortune de-
"'prived the country of its most experienced
"'chief, I have ever considered the deprivation
"'a public blessing, ministered by the hands of
"'Providence; for if General Lee had not aban-
"'doned caution for convenience, and taken quar-
"'ters two miles from his army, on his exposed
"'flank, he would have been safe; if a domestic
"'traitor, who passed his quarters the same morn-
"'ing on private business, had not casually fallen
"'in with Colonel Harcourt on a reconnoitring
"'party, the General's quarters would not have
"'been discovered; if my visit, and the contro-
"'versy with the Connecticut Light Horse, had
"'not spun out the morning unreasonably, the
"'General would have been at his camp; if
"'Colonel Harcourt had arrived an hour sooner,
"'he would have found the guard under arms,
"'and would have been repulsed, or resisted until
"'succour could have arrived; if he had arrived
"'half an hour later, the General would have
"'been with his corps; if the guard had paid
"'ordinary attention to their duty, and had not
"'abandoned their arms, the General's quarters
"'would have been defended; or if he had
"'obeyed the peremptory and reiterated order
"'of General Washington, he would have been

" 'beyond the reach of the enemy. And shall
" 'we impute to blind chance such a chain of
" 'rare incidents? I conscientiously reply in the
" 'negative, because the combination was too in-
" 'tricate and perplexed for accidental causes, or
" 'the agency of man; it must have been de-
" 'signed.

" 'General Lee merited severe punishment for
" 'his neglect of duty and disobedience of orders,
" 'and he received it from an unexpected hand.
" 'His offence was well understood by the army,
" 'and his misfortune was unpitied by those who
" 'reflected on the cause of it. It is a fact he
" 'had very strong reasons for his neglect of
" 'General Washington's reiterated commands;
" 'but although they were not such as to justify
" 'the violation of a fundamental military prin-
" 'ciple, yet I verily believe his motives were
" 'patriotic, though intimately connected with a
" 'sinister ambition; for I am persuaded that, in
" 'the moment of his capture, he meditated a wild
" 'stroke against the enemy, which in its conse-
" 'quences would have depressed General Wash-
" 'ington, elevated himself, and immediately served
" 'the cause of the United States. This opinion
" 'is supported by the following letter to General
" 'Gates:—

" '*Baskingridge, Dec. 13th*, 1776.

" 'MY DEAR GATES,—The ingenious manœuvre
" 'of Fort Washington has unhinged the goodly
" 'fabric we have been building. There never
" 'was so damned a stroke. Entre nous a cer-
" 'tain great man is most damnably deficient.
" 'He has thrown me into a situation, where I
" 'have my choice of difficulties: if I stay in this
" 'province, I risk myself and army; and if I do
" 'not stay, the province is lost for ever. I have
" 'neither guides, cavalry, medicine, money, shoes,
" 'or stockings. I must act with the greatest
" 'circumspection. Tories are in my front, rear,
" 'and on my flanks; the mass of the people is
" 'strongly contaminated; in short, unless some-
" 'thing, which I do not expect, turns up, we
" 'are lost; our counsels have been weak to
" 'the last degree. As to what relates to your-
" 'self, if you think you can be in time to aid
" 'the General, I would have you by all means
" 'go; you will, at least, save your army. It is
" 'said that the Whigs are determined to set
" 'fire to Philadelphia; if they strike this decisive
" 'stroke, the day will be our own; but unless
" 'it is done, all chance of liberty in any part
" 'of the globe is for ever vanished. Adieu, my
" 'dear friend! God bless you!

" 'CHARLES LEE.

"'So soon as Lieut.-Col. Harcourt retreated
"'with his prize, I repaired to the stable, mounted
"'the first horse I could find, and rode full speed
"'to General Sullivan, whom I found under march
"'towards Pluckamin. I had not examined Gen-
"'eral Lee's letter; but believing a knowledge
"'of the contents might be useful to General
"'Sullivan, who succeeded him in command, I
"'handed it to him; who after the perusal re-
"'turned it, with his thanks, and advised me to
"'rejoin General Gates without delay, which I
"'did the next morning, at Sussex Court House,
"'whither he had led the troops from Van
"'Kempt's. Lee's misfortune afflicted Gates pro-
"'foundly; they had been long acquainted, and
"'served together in the British Army, and were
"'personally attached; their politics and political
"'connexions were in unison, and their sym-
"'pathies and antipathies ran in the same current:
"'yet long after, and in misfortune, they became
"'estranged.'"

We now return to Colonel Harcourt's letters.

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Brunswick, January 18th*, 1777.

"DEAR SIR,—The unfortunate surprise of the Hessians at Trenton, followed by the check which one of our Corps received on the 3rd instant, having determined Lord Cornwallis to postpone his plan of returning to England, I am much mortified to find that the *two* letters which I had written to you at the close of the Campaign, and which I had entrusted to the care of his Lordship's Aid de Camp, are still at New York.

"I must own that I was once sanguine enough to think that this disagreeable war drew near to a conclusion, and that the uninterrupted success our Arms had met with in the Jerseys would soon oblige the Rebels to make their submission, Such, however, are the sudden turns in War, that I think we may now reckon with certainty upon another Campaign.

"Assured as I am of your wishes to be recalled, I wait with impatience for the news of your return to England; where I think the ill disposition of a certain set of men can no longer prevent your receiving those rewards you are so justly entitled to.

"With respect to your very kind offer, I have

only to say that, so far from wishing you to have the trouble of sending any thing from England, I have not as yet been able to make use of any of the many comforts which your generosity enabled me to furnish myself with. The truth is, that the scrambling life we have hitherto led, the probability of sometimes losing one's baggage, the continual *alerte* in which we have been for these last three weeks, and, lastly, the want of a good Cook, have hitherto made it impossible for me to keep a Table; though I shall soon hope to accomplish it.

"I believe I informed you in a former letter of my having been unlucky enough to lose a favourite horse upon the passage. Those you were kind enough to give me, as well as that of Mr. Worsley's, have fully answered my expectations, and have, I believe, done more work and been in better condition than any in the Army. Your little Bay, high mettled and shy as he is at other times, is perfectly quiet in fire, and is stout to a degree. The day I took General Lee we marched near seventy miles, and he seemed as fresh the last moment as when I first mounted him.

"It is with much satisfaction I can acquaint you that the behaviour of the Regiment has been generally approved of, and, whatever may have been the former opinion, has fully convinced

this Army of the necessity of having Light Dragoons.

"I must not close this letter without telling you how much I think myself obliged to General Howe for the attention he has been kind enough to pay to my recommendation of a young man for a Cornetcy, to whom he gave the Commission in the most obliging manner.

"I have only to beg you to remember me to my Lady Nuneham, my Sister and Brother, and I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Brunswick, March 17th*, 1777.

"DEAR SIR,—I had yesterday the very great satisfaction of receiving your letter of the 1st of November, and I am truly rejoiced in the certainty of your being at this moment released from a situation which has for some time been so irksome to you. Surely, Sir, the solid advantages you have acquired to the Crown in the course of four years' successful administration will not

any longer pass unnoticed and unrewarded. Arrangements enough might be made that would enable His Majesty to shew his sense of your services. Why not give you the Ordnance, the Household, or the Master of the Horse, for the possessor of either of which places an equivalent might be found? The person they have named for the Lord Lieutenancy fully shews the leading interest of the Cabinet to be that of Lord G. G.[d], who, with his self-sufficient, vain, ignorant Commander in Chief, will really govern Ireland, and will send their mandates to the ostensible Lord Lieutenant.

"I will now confess to you that from the moment of General I.'s[e] appointment I have been anxious to hear of your removal from a situation in which it seemed determined to affront you. At the same time that I take the occasion to assure you how deeply impressed I am with your late kind offers, I must beg leave to decline making any use of them, at least for the present; the fact is that our expenses here are so confined, that, in my present Rank, I do not think I can have occasion to exceed my income.

"You will, I am sure, be glad to hear that I have sufficient reason to be vain of the approbation the Regiment has generally met with. The late season at which we arrived did not promise

[d] Lord George Germaine. [e] Irwin.

us much employment; but the weather proved so favourable that I had in ten days the satisfaction of being able to take the field with nearly half the Regiment. We are now enjoying a state of perfect quiet, and, though we are much weakened by the loss (about 20 Men and 60 Horses which either died or were taken at Sea, and thirty men of our dismounted Divisions, who unfortunately fell into the Enemy's hands in the affair of Prince Town), we are still in good order, and not without hopes of being again complete by the opening of the Campaign.

"The public papers have hitherto given you a fair account enough of our operations; in what light they may state the affairs of Trenton and Prince Town I cannot so easily guess, for, however we may blame the scandalous negligence and cowardice of the Hessian Brigade, there certainly was a fault in the original arrangement of the Winter Quarters, which were much too extensive for an Army of our numbers, and the position of Trenton in itself extremely faulty.

"I shall now conclude this letter with a few remarks, which I think the very little experience I have already had in this war sufficiently authorizes me to make. The first is that, however Government may have been flattered by the representations of a few interested individuals, you may depend upon it, as a fact, that we have not

yet met with ten, I believe I might have said two, disinterested friends to the supremacy of Great Britain; that from the want of intelligence we frequently, nay generally, lose the favourable opportunity for striking a decisive stroke; that in general we ought to avoid attacking any considerable body of them (suppose two or three hundred), unless we can pursue our advantage, or at least take post; for though we may carry our point, nevertheless, whenever we attempt to return to our Quarters we may be assured of their harrassing us upon our retreat; that detached Corps should never march without Artillery, of which the rebels are extremely apprehensive; lastly, that, though they seem to be ignorant of the precision and order, and even of the principles, by which large bodies are moved, yet they possess some of the requisites for making good Troops, such as extreme cunning, great industry in moving ground and felling of wood, activity and a spirit of enterprise upon any advantage.

"Having said thus much I have no occasion to add that though it was once the fashion of this Army to treat them in the most contemptible light, they are now become a formidable enemy. Formidable, however, as they may be, I flatter myself we are a good deal more so, and I have therefore little doubt that, provided affairs continue quiet in Europe, and the expected reinforcements arrive in good time, that we shall soon bring this business to a happy conclusion.

"As I am fearful the Packet may sail early to-morrow, I shall, in that case, beg you to tell my Brother and Sister how much I am obliged to them for their letters of the 3rd and 29th December, and 1st of January, all which I shall take care to acknowledge as soon as possible. With every assurance of affection to them and my Lady Nuneham, I must beg leave to add that I am your ever most Dutiful

"and affectionate Son,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Brunswick, March 18th*, 1777.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—Though I desired my Father in a letter which he will receive herewith to make you my apologies for not writing, I am determined to take advantage of the delay of the Packet to testify in my own hand how much I think myself obliged to you for your three letters, which have afforded me infinite amusement and satisfaction. By this time I hope my Father is receiving in his own family that comfort of which he has been so long deprived, for as to the rewards

of his long and important services, the nomination of his successor is to me a sufficient earnest of His Majesty's gracious intentions. Your suspicions with respect to the declining favour of B.[f] give me some concern, for though I have not been blind to the faults of the favourite, I always thought he had gratitude enough to attribute the favours which have been heaped upon him at least as much to the partiality of his master as to his own merits: to be sure what with the Alnager, the Park, &c., &c., &c., he has profited pretty considerably by his Irish Campaign.

"With respect to the quarrel between a certain person and Madame du Barré[g], I must own I look upon it as one of the most fortunate events that could have happened to him; and even admitting that he may have been unguarded enough to commit himself to paper, I still think the cavalier method in which you have treated the old Hag will keep her within bounds. Your friend Hamilton's conduct in this affair has been judicious and sensible, and does him real honour.

"Too ridiculous the importance and coyness of Swan and the Knight of Ballyduff. You have not told me what provision has been made for Lees, whose respectful behaviour, knowledge of business, and important services surely claim

[f] Blaquiere. [g] Mrs. Macartney.

some reward from my Father. I know that Lee is in a state of independence, but still he owes that to another Lord Lieutenant.

"Is it not strange that considering the very good terms upon which I have the happiness to live with my Father, considering the surprizing number of arrangements which have taken place in the course of an administration of four years, I have never been able to succeed in favour of my friend, Sir John Russell, excepting the little office which was held by Miss Fauquier, which, though called £150 a year, I believe never brought in half that sum!

"I shall expect to receive yours and the Tormentor's[h] condolences instead of congratulations upon my taking of General Lee, *another stab* to expiring liberty. I do not know what lengths people may be disposed to proceed to on your side of the Atlantic, but, in my own opinion, his life, about which he is at least as anxious as one could imagine him, is effectually secured by the threats of retaliation. You will hear of many acts of cruelty that are said to have been committed by both parties, but, excepting that the *rebel Militia* have now and then shot persons travelling upon the road, I do not think that there is much occasion for complaints of that nature on either side.

[h] His sister, Lady Elizabeth Lee.

"I am happy to hear that Lady Nuneham's health is so perfectly established. Let me beg you to assure her of my sincerest affection, and any friends who may be kind enough to inquire after me of my remembrances.

"Ever yours, my Dear Brother,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Brunswick, May 31st, 1777.*

"DEAR SIR,—The Packet, which sailed from England a few days before Major Gardiner, being still missing, I have not had the happiness of receiving any letter from you since the 21st of November. I have, however, had the satisfaction of hearing from several hands of the sincere regret with which the people of Ireland parted with their late Lord Lieutenant, and of your good health since your return to England.

"The demolition of the Enemy's Magazines at Pigs Kill and Donbury will, I hope, be attended with many advantages, and will, in its consequences, assist extremely the operations of the Canadian Army. The conduct of the latter expedition, but particularly the retreat through a Country remarkably strong by nature, and

under a continual fire almost to the place of embarkation, reflects infinite honour upon Sir William Erskine, whose conspicuous merit upon this, as indeed upon every other occasion, has justly gained him the confidence of this Army.

"Since the surprize of Bound Brook, which was effected without any loss, and at which I happened to be present, the Rebels have assembled their principal Army, consisting at present of about eight thousand men, and are now strongly posted in the mountains behind that place. Thus situated it is difficult to guess what will be the first operation of a Campaign which will probably produce many events, though I must confess I am not sanguine enough to think it will bring this War to a conclusion; for, whatever may be the opinion of A——n, formed upon the reports of Governor Tryon, &c., you may be assured that we are almost without a friend (I mean upon principle) on this side of the Atlantic; that the supplies the rebels have received from France and other Powers have been very considerable; and lastly, that there does not appear the least defection amongst their Leaders. Much will depend upon the success of the Canadian Army which we expect will be able to reduce Ticonderoge, and afterwards penetrate into the Northern Colonies. Should it effect these great objects we may promise ourselves a very successful

and a very glorious Campaign. The desertion of the Rebels, or rather of the English and Irish of which their Army is principally composed, still continues, and would increase were they not to use every precaution to prevent it.

"The arrival of a part of the reinforcement, in which the Guards were included, again raised my expectations of hearing from you; but, instead of receiving that satisfaction, I had the mortification to hear that you had not, as late as the beginning of March, received one of the five or six letters which I have, at different times, written to you; to ascertain the receipt of those I shall in future trouble you with, I propose numbering them, and I shall beg you to acknowledge them accordingly.

"I send you enclosed a copy of ——— approbation of my conduct upon the occasion of my making General Lee a prisoner. Had I not lived quite so long about a Court my vanity might have been gratified with the praises which have been lavished upon me, but when I recollect that the most eminent services of *others* have passed unrewarded, I cannot form great expectations from an event in which fortune had so considerable a share. With respect to rank, having failed in my wishes of obtaining it in the only manner that could have made it an object, I confess I am much better pleased with remaining

in my present situation than if I had obtained a Brevet in a numerous promotion.

"I could now wish to have your opinion of the propriety of applying for His Majesty's leave to return to England for a few months at the close of this Campaign, and, in case of your approbation of the measure, I shall venture to request your assistance in obtaining it, provided it can be effected without bringing you into any disagreeable embarrassments. There are so many reasons which concur to make it a desirable object to me, that I am persuaded I have no occasion to enumerate them. I am aware that, if a chance existed of bringing this business to a conclusion in the course of another Campaign, I should be extremely blameable in pressing you to ask as a favour what would then be in my power to obtain from the Commander in Chief without any difficulty; but when I tell you (however sanguine Administration may be in their expectations) that America is never to be regained without making an absolute conquest of her; that great art in their Leaders, and a perfect enthusiasm in their People have hitherto prevented any the most distant overtures towards a peace, excepting upon the footing of independence; that their Army, though less numerous than the last year, is certainly not less formidable; and lastly, that, from the nature and constitution of the Country, in

which every man is, to a certain degree, a soldier, a Victory obtained against such an Enemy can seldom prove as decisive as it would be in Europe; you will, I believe, Sir, agree with me that no Honour or Command is a sufficient compensation far passing my life in one continued state of banishment. Having bored you so long, I shall only add that though the transition from cold to heat has been sudden, the climate is so remarkably healthy that I have not at this time above five sick in the Regiment. I must beg you to make my love acceptable to Lady Nuneham, my Sister, Brother, the Vernons, &c., &c., and I am, my Dear Sir, ever your most dutiful

"and most affectionate Son,

"Wm. HARCOURT.

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt:—

"*New York, July 12th*, 1777.

"DEAR SIR,—I did myself the pleasure of acknowledging your letters (as far as the 11th of March) in a note which I wrote to you from Brunswick. The arrival of Lord Rawden has very lately given me the additional satisfaction of receiving yours of the 13th and 20th April. After the anxious expectation which seems to

have prevailed as far back as that time for news from America, I fear you will not be very well satisfied to hear that the Campaign is scarcely yet opened.

"The movement which we made to Hilsbro' not having been attended with the effect which was expected of forcing General Washington to cross the Delawarr, the Army retired to Brunswick, and from thence to Amboy; but, upon information having been received that the Rebels had quitted their position in the mountains above Bound Brook, and had actually pushed forward a considerable Corps within four miles of Amboy in order to harass and attack our rear Guard during their embarkation, it was determined to make a further attempt upon them; and we accordingly marched on the morning of the 27th June as far as the Quakers' Hills, within four miles of Quibble Town, when the advanced guard, under Lord Cornwallis, fell in with a Corps of between 2 and 3,000 commanded by Lord Sterling, and they immediately attacked with great spirit, and conquered with inconsiderable loss.

"The Light Infantry, a Battalion of Hessian Grenadiers, and the Grenadiers of the Guards, commanded by my friend Sir George Osborn, distinguished themselves very much upon this occasion, and took three pieces of Cannon, with some prisoners. A delay in the forming of the

Army in the order of march having occasioned our moving somewhat later than was originally intended, the main body of the Enemy's Army had time to re-cross the Bound Brook which prevented any thing further being attempted at that time. The Army returned to Amboy and crossed into Staten Island without the least opposition, and are now all embarked excepting the Corps which is destined to protect this place and its environs.

"Having now gone through the detail of our hitherto very unimportant transactions, I cannot close this letter without assuring you of the indignation I felt at their presuming to make use of that wretched tool, Lord B——ton, to impose upon you with general assurances of —— gracious intentions at the very moment they were decided to give the rank to Colonel Campbell, who has actually not seen a shot fired since he has been in America. If the cause in which I am engaged did not operate with me more than the dirty contemptible arts of some of —— Ministers, I must own I should be sick of serving, but, on the other hand, I have every reason to be perfectly satisfied with Sir William Howe's letter, which, without any affected moderation on my part, certainly gives me more merit than I deserved. I have only to entreat you, Sir, to adhere to the determination you gave me the pleasure of communicating. I

mean that of disdaining to become a humble or an importunate solicitor for any of their favours. I must beg my most affectionate remembrances to all my friends, and

"I am, Dear Sir,
"Ever your most Dutiful and
"most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Camp near Philadelphia, October 7th*, 1777.

"DEAR SIR,—The public papers will give you the detail of our operations from the time of our landing at the head of Chesapeak Bay till we took possession of Philadelphia. The manœuvre in order to turn the right flank of Mr. Washington's Army, strongly posted upon the heights of the River Brandy Wine, would have done credit to any General ; and the action which followed must have been decisive had we been fortunate enough to have had a few more hours of daylight. The immediate consequences of this Victory were the capture of 11 pieces of Artillery, with between 4 and 500 prisoners. Our Army, weakened by two very considerable Detachments, but presuming upon their superiority, had taken a position,

perhaps too extensive for their numbers, upon the heights of German Town, and within six miles of Philadelphia, which it covered. Mr. Washington, exactly apprized of our numbers and situation, made a forced march on the night of the 3rd, and at break of day the next morning, under cover of a remarkable thick fog, made three attacks upon the right, centre, and left of our Army. The Yagers upon the left, and the 1st Battalion of Light Infantry advanced in front of the right, not only maintained their Posts but soon drove the rebels off, though, as I have already said, the weather was so thick that a body of them got into and plundered the Camp of the Light Infantry, while another Corps attacked them in front.

"A moment of the day was critical. The 2nd Battalion of Light Infantry, posted upon a road a mile and a half in front of German Town, found itself attacked and in fact opposed to two very heavy Columns. Under these disadvantages it stood a considerable time, but, at length, overpowered by numbers, it gave way and was driven within a mile of Head Quarters. The 40th Regiment, which supported it, was also forced to retire; but, to the honour of Colonel Musgrave who commands it, six Companies with him threw themselves into a Stone House, where they gave the first check to the progress of the rebels, and maintained their

post till supported by the Line. The day ended with glory, and we continued the pursuit at least 9 miles beyond the field of Battle. Our loss of men was not considerable, but it fell heavy upon the Officers. General Agnew and Colonel Baird are amongst the killed; Colonel Walcot badly wounded. That part of the Regiment with which I happened to be cantoned near Philadelphia did not get up till the action was nearly over.

"I have only to repeat the assurance of my affection to Lady Nuneham, my Sister, Brother, &c., &c., and I am, Dear Sir, ever

"Your most Dutiful
"and most affectionate Son,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his father, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Philadelphia, October 26th*, 1777.

"DEAR SIR,—Lord Cathcart having altered his plan of service in consequence of his being appointed Aid de Camp to Sir Thomas Wilson, I have not as yet had an opportunity of paying the attention which is due to any young man who is fortunate enough to deserve your good opinion.

"I endeavoured, in a former letter, to give you an account of our operations as far as the action of German Town. It is with some concern I am

to acquaint you that our affairs have not since that time worn the same flourishing appearance. It was absolutely necessary we should open a communication with our Fleet, and it was accordingly determined to begin with making ourselves masters of the fort upon *Mud* Island, which, with that of Red Bank on the Jersey coast, and the Chevaux de Frize between those two points, effectually command the navigation of the Delawarr.

"After several fruitless attempts to dislodge the Enemy from this post, it was at length resolved to land a Corps in the Jerseys, and, if possible, to take the Batteries on that side by a *Coup de main.* Unfortunately our intelligence was bad, and what was represented as a Battery erected entirely against the ships and *open* behind, proved a very strong Fort with a deep ditch. Colonel Donop, who commanded the Hessian Grenadiers, the Regiment of Mirebach, and the Yagers, destined for this service, made his attack on the evening of the 22nd, but, after sustaining a very heavy fire from the Fort, the ships, and the floating Batteries, were at length obliged to retreat, with the loss of 26 Officers killed and wounded, 127 Men killed, and above 200 wounded. Donop himself, very justly the pride of the Hessians, and undoubtedly an excellent officer, received two wounds, which it is feared will prove mortal, and

was left a prisoner in the hands of the Enemy. The day after this affair, a disposition was made to storm the Fort upon Mud Island under cover of the fire of our ships, but, by some accident, the Augusta of 64 Guns was burnt, and the Merlin sloop, having run on shore, was also destroyed; so that the operation was obliged to be deferred. All these checks following so close upon the back of each other, together with the account (which we are still very unwilling to give credit to) of General Burgoyne's Army having been obliged to lay down their Arms for want of provisions, must necessarily reduce us to the defensive for the rest of the Campaign; and will probably oblige us to evacuate a conquest which I have ever been of opinion should not have been thought of till a junction with the Northern Army was effected, but which, circumstanced as we are at present, cannot be maintained.

"Having gone through this description of the present state of our affairs, I shall only add that, desirous as I may have been to return to you during the winter months, I do not expect that such a favour will at this time be granted, and I shall therefore endeavour to remain satisfied till some better opportunity presents itself.

"I shall beg my most affectionate remembrances may be made to Lady Nuneham, my Sister and

Brother, &c., &c., and I am, Dear Sir, ever your most Dutiful

"and most affectionate Son,

"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. Your letter of the 5th June by Lord Cathcart, and that of my Brother of the 1st May by Captain Vaughan, are the last I have received. I doubt whether you have received all my letters."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Viscount Nuneham :—

"*Philadelphia, November 29th*, 1777.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—The reduction of the Forts upon Mud Island and Red Bank having at last given us possession of the navigation of the Delawarr, our Campaign draws near to a conclusion; and though we may still affect to hold the language of driving the Rebel Army over the River Susquehana, I am inclined to think our operations will be confined to little more than the procuring such supplies of provisions and forage as will enable us to pass our time somewhat more at our ease than during the last winter.

"You have before this time heard of the misfortune of our Northern Army. Whether this event will produce an alteration in the Administration, or that Lord G. will have strength enough

to opiniate this business for another year must soon be determined, but be assured that if the Canada Army had penetrated, America would not even then have been conquered. With respect to my friend General Burgoyne, though I expect he will be blamed by the people and sacrificed by the Ministers, I take comfort in the persuasion that, whenever his conduct can be inquired into, it will appear that no exertion on his part has been left untried, and that the loss of his Army was unavoidable from the moment we sailed from New York.

"Having received no letter from you of a later date than that of the 1st of May, you may be sure I wait with impatience the arrival of the September packet, not without hopes that it may bring me His Majesty's leave to return to England for the remainder of the winter. I hope it is unnecessary for me to repeat the assurance of my duty to Lord Harcourt, or of my affection to Lady Nuneham and my sister.

"Your ever affectionate Brother,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

After his father's death a gap of fifteen years occurs in the correspondence of Wil-

liam Harcourt; when it is resumed we find him still soldiering in another quarter.

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Longwy, September 17th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—I am thus far on my road to join Mrs. Harcourt at Spa; and, as it is the last opportunity I can have in conveying to you any intelligence worth notice, I avail myself of it to inform you that on Tuesday 11th the Duke of Brunswick's Army quitted the environs of Verdun; and, after a march of two days, reached the camp of *Landres*, where we had a distinct view of part of Dumourier's Army; which occupied a strong though extensive position, his front covered by the river *Ayr* as far as *Grandpre*, beyond which his left extended some miles in a very strong, woody country. Thursday the 13th proving remarkably wet, it was not till the next morning that General Clairfait turned and attacked his left flank, posted at a place called *Croix au Bois*, which he carried with the loss of about 60 men, amongst whom the young Prince de Ligne is much regretted. In the course of the night following Dumourier quitted his position, and, after losing 2 pieces of

Cannon and some baggage, taken by the Hussars he continued his retreat towards Luckner, at or near Chalons. The gaining of these passes with so very inconsiderable a loss is certainly an object of some importance; and, though there are still difficulties to be overcome, the Duke will probably now be enabled to pursue the main object of the Campaign without much further delay.

"The different Corps, when I left the Army yesterday, were stationed nearly as follows: Clairfait, supported by Kulkreuth, still advancing upon Dumourier; the principal part of the Cavalry of the Prince's Army at *Dunne;* the Prussian main Army at Landres, but to march this morning to Monchenot, the south side of the river Aisne; the Hessians near St. Menehould; the Austrian Prince Hohenloe at Bar le Duc; a small Corps of Austrians, with about 7,000 French commanded by Mareschal Broglio in the environs of Thionville; where, I take it for granted, nothing more will be expected from them than the preventing any attempt from that quarter upon the communications.

"As you know my object for plaguing you with this long military detail, I shall only add that I am in perfect health, and shall hope to find you equally so early in the month of October. Give my best love to Lady Harcourt, and remember me to the Chesterfields and Goldsworthy, to

whom I have never had leisure to write; and believe me,

"my Dear Brother,
"most affectionately yours,
"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. I left Sir James Murray and Colonel Manners in the Army. Colonel S. Leger, who quitted it with me, is so obliging as to charge himself with this letter to Brussels."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Longwy, August 29th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—In conformity to what Mrs. Harcourt wrote from Brussels, we left that place on Thursday morning; and, after passing through Namur and traversing the forest of Ardennes, we arrived here, without any accident (one overturn excepted), on Saturday last; in time to proceed to Head Quarters, and to deliver His Majesty's letter to the Duke of Brunswick the same evening. The next morning we were presented to the King of Prussia, in Camp, at the usual orderly hour; and we had afterwards the honour of dining with His Majesty. The company consisted of about 30 persons, amongst which were the Duke of Brunswick, the two Princes of Prussia, the Duke of Brunswick's son, Monsieur the Prince

of Nassau, General Culkruth, Monsieur de Bishopswerden, and some of the Emigrees.

"We have since seen the Prussian Army, which is encamped about 5 miles to the south of this Town; that of the Austrians, under Clairfait, is about 3 miles distant to the west of it. We dined yesterday with the Duke of Brunswick, who desired Sir James Murray and myself to retire with him after dinner, when he began a very confidential conversation with us upon the present state of affairs; in which he dwelt much upon the importance of a Declaration from England; his expression was *pas si forte que le notre*, but of such a nature as might carry weight with it, and do away the unfavourable impression, and give the lie to the reports which had been propagated with so much industry by the French that they were sure of powerful succours from England; an idea which we, of course, scouted, and which indeed he did not seem to give more credit to than ourselves. He then endeavoured to impress upon our minds that such a step could not possibly engage England in a war, for that the French had neither a Fleet, nor money to equip one.

"He asked whether, when we left England, they had any idea of things being brought to this pass; for that he was convinced the French had been in perfect ignorance on what point he meant to make his attack. He then entered very fully into his

intended first operations, prefacing it with saying that in war nothing could be looked upon as certain; but that he had correspondences in several of their places, particularly in Thionville, which, if he could depend upon his intelligence, he thought he had a fair prospect of taking; that upon this idea the first movement of the Austrian Army would be upon that place, while his own would march to Verdun; in order to force Luckner either to give up his communication with Paris, or to fall further back. From his correspondence, and from the weak state of its Garrison, he expected to reduce that place without difficulty; that in the mean time Monsieur de Clairfait's Corps would move upon his right to Stenay and Sedan, in order to reduce those places and keep up a communication between him and the Austrian territory on his right, while the Hessians were doing the same in his rear.

"What further operations will immediately follow must, in course, depend upon circumstances as they arise; but, having hold of these places, he will, undoubtedly, be enabled to proceed much more at his ease. He then told us that Monsieur had proposed to declare himself Regent, but that the idea had not been approved of by the two Courts, who had determined upon a Council of Regency, composed of a member from each Court, with Monsieur at the head of it. Every idea, however,

of retaining any of their conquests is *utterly* disclaimed, and that of restoring the King only avowed.

"Having now given you so long a detail upon military operations, and which I am very sure I have no occasion to say is intended for H— M$^{sty's}$ ear only, I must add one word to tell you that the reception we have met with from the Duke of Brunswick has been as gracious and as polite as possible: such, indeed, as we never could have expected, but from the singular instance of our good fortune in being honoured with the letter from His Majesty, and for which I can never sufficiently express my gratitude. Though the Duke told us he could not possibly dispense with a prohibition which had never been deviated from in any one instance whatever, he did not order us to quit the Army; and he even went so far as to say, with a little management, we might remain a few days to see the first of the operations; an indulgence you may be sure we certainly availed ourselves of. Adieu.

"Very sincerely and affectionately
"Yours,
"W^{m}. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt:—

"*Verdun, September 8th*, 1792.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—It seems very ridiculous that you of all men living should be so continually plagued with details of Military operations, but when I recollect that you are so near the King's person, who may wish to be informed from every quarter of what is going on here, and that it is the only tribute of gratitude I have it in my power to pay for His Majesty's goodness in enabling me to come hither, I shall make you no further apology.

"In conformity to what I wrote to you on the 28th August, the whole of the combined force got into motion the next morning, and, after a march of two days, the several Corps of the Prussian Army joined, and occupied a position on some commanding heights to the north east of this Town: the Right to the little village of Bras, near the Meuse; the Left on a hill considerably beyond the great road leading from Etain to Verdun: at the same time another Corps of 3 Regiments of Cavalry and Hussars, and 7 Battalions of Infantry, under General Kulkruth, crossed the river on a bridge of Pontoons, below the Town, and took post so as to complete the investment.

On the night of the 31st the Citadel and Town were bombarded from the different sides, but with so little effect that they were in doubt whether it would not have been necessary to begin the approaches in form. On Sunday, however, the Garrison, consisting of 3 weak Battalions of National Guards, 350 regular Troops, and about 5,000 armed Peasants, very gladly accepted the conditions which had been offered them, and marched out with their Arms on one side of the Town as our troops took possession on the other. The Commandant shot himself immediately after signing the Capitulation, though, to say the truth, the Fortifications were in so bad a state, and the place is so much commanded from the neighbouring heights, that it could not have been defended for any length of time. It is, however, a useful Depôt, and besides about 52 pieces of Artillery, of different kinds, which fell into our hands, it contained a good deal of Gunpowder and a considerable quantity of flour, &c. &c.

"We have not had any account of Clairfait's operations, but there cannot be a doubt of his possessing himself of Sedan without much difficulty. Thionville is invested and has been twice summoned; but, contrary to our expectations, seems determined to stand a siege, which will, of course, oblige Prince Hohenloe to send for a battering train from Luxemburg. Whether this

Army will wait the event of this enterprise, or proceed by the way of Chalons, I am not enough in the secret to pretend to determine; but, from the state of the Enemy's Army, it cannot be supposed they will venture to oppose such a Force as this in front till its nearer approach to Paris. I cannot, therefore, but conclude that much the most formidable obstacle the Duke will have to encounter will arise from the lateness of the season and the length of the line upon which he is operating.

"We hear frequently from the Army of the Princes, which the Duke of Brunswick has done wisely in keeping as much out of the active part of the business as possible. There are, I am well informed, not fewer than 8,000 Nobility and Gentry in it, most of them dressing their own horses or carrying their Knapsacks, and performing the duties of common soldiers: but, upon the whole, I am inclined to think they must rather prove an embarrassment than an assistance to the Army with which they are acting. Having served in one war of this nature, I think I can form a pretty just opinion of the dispositions of the people; and though I believe, in their present state, one might travel from hence to Paris with little danger, I am convinced that, in the great body of the people, there is a general, I might almost say a universal, disinclination to *la bonne cause*, though the discipline of this Army is so good that, excepting in the immediate environs of the Camp where Forage must be taken, the Peasants have suffered very little, and receipts are constantly given for every article furnished for the Troops, not payable, it is true, till the King is reinstated in his former situation.

"Having now completed the principal object which induced me to undertake this tour, and which has fully answered my expectations, I shall probably take only a few more marches with the Army, and shall hope to join M^rs^. Harcourt at Spa in about ten days.

"I have only to add that this Army is in the highest state of health, spirits, and discipline; perfectly free from desertion from the moment they entered the French territory, and in every respect in the best order possible.

"Sir James Murray, who I am very happy to have had with me, will, I hope, with a little management, be able to accompany the Army during the remainder of the Campaign; below you have a pretty just statement of the actual strength of it at present.

"I most truly hope that their Majesties and the Royal family enjoy as good a state of health as when they went to Weymouth; better, I think, I can hardly wish them.

"Make my very affectionate love to Lady Harcourt, and believe me, my Dear Brother,

"Ever yours,

"Wm. HARCOURT.

"P.S. Monsieur Lucker still continues at Frescati near Metz."

STATE OF THE PRUSSIAN ARMY.

45	Squadrons of Cavalry Dragoons at 140 each	6,300
30	Squadrons of Hussars at 150 each	4,500
39	Battalions of the Line at 648 each	25,272
7	Battalions of Light Infantry at 648 each	4,536
10	Companies of Artillery near 200 each	2,000
	Total	42,608

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Tournay, Tuesday.*

"I FEEL as I ought those kind and affectionate expressions of yours and Lady Harcourt's love, and I am sure you will do me the justice to believe the same sentiments are perfectly reciprocal on my part.

"Knowing full well the anxiety you feel upon my account, I take the earliest opportunity to acquaint you that on Sunday last we experienced a sad reverse of fortune, which must necessarily check our operations for some time, though I trust it will not have any material bad consequence further than the loss of some brave men, and which we have now the satisfaction to find proves to be less than, from the nature of the action, might have been expected.

"The attack the day before had, in general, succeeded, but not sufficiently to enable a Corps to give that assistance to the Duke of York which he had been encouraged, and indeed had *every* right to expect. Thus situated, and overpowered by the infinite superiority of the Enemy's Force, he was obliged to give way, and retreat, certainly in great disorder, to his former position, where we now all remain. The Infantry of that part of the Army in which I served was in action the whole of the day before, but was not engaged in the last affair.

"The loss of Officers is trifling in the extreme, and we are all in good health and spirits.

"Excuse haste,

"most affectionately yours,

"W. H.

"P.S. I believe I told you in my last letter how much Amedée and his brother have distinguished themselves.

"Pray write to my sister."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Tournay, Friday, May 23rd.*

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—Battles happen so often that one week even does not pass over without my plaguing you with a letter. The action, however, of yesterday, for duration, as well as weight of fire, exceeded any thing, I believe, that has occurred in this age, for though the firing began at about ½ past 6 in the morning, the musquetry did not cease till dusk, and the Cannonade was not quite over till ¼ before ten.

"The French Army, according to the accounts of prisoners, amounted to near 80,000 men, which enabled them not only to make their attacks upon so many points, but also to renew them so frequently that nothing but the superior valour of our Troops could have resisted them, and the affair was at last decided by a handful of brave British, most ably commanded by General Sax.

"After so hard contested a day many Trophies cannot be expected, but we have taken 5 pieces

of Cannon and about 500 Prisoners, and we fancy the Enemy have had near 2,000 killed and 3,000 wounded.

"The Left Wing of the Army, General Jones' Brigade excepted, not having been engaged, *we* were only idle, though very anxious, spectators of this most awful spectacle.

"Mrs. Harcourt is, I thank God, in pretty good health at Bruxelles. Make my best love to Lady Harcourt, and I am most truly and most affectionately

"Yours,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Lord Harcourt :—

"*Chateau de l'Hermitage, April* 1, 1794.

"THOUGH I have already desired Lord Amherst to lay my humble acknowledgments at the King's feet for the Government he has so graciously conferred upon me, I cannot suffer a post to pass over without requesting you to say for me how strongly my mind is impressed with gratitude at receiving this very honourable mark of His Majesty's approbation and favour. The emoluments of this Government are certainly not very considerable, it being of the third class only, but still

it is an object for a soldier's ambition, and it does not exclude me from obtaining a better upon some future occasion.

"Mrs. Harcourt will probably remain with me till we take the Field, which I scarcely think will be in less than a fortnight. She is certainly in better spirits than she would have been had she remained on your side of the water, but I cannot say I am quite satisfied about her health, as she has still some remains of the Cough she got at the beginning of the winter. We are lodged superbly in this Chateau, which, elegant in every respect, exceeds any thing I have met with in the arrangement of the private apartments, two of which, most elegantly furnished and consisting of five rooms each, are upon the ground floor, and, I think, fourteen quite as complete upon each of the others.

"I cannot close this letter without informing you of a considerable advantage gained by the Austrians on Friday last between *Cateau* and *Robersart*. The Enemy made the attack in considerable force, it is said not less than 25,000 men, but were soon repulsed with the loss of 4 or 5 pieces of Cannon and above 100 killed upon the field, and about 60 or 70 made prisoners.

"As Mrs. Harcourt writes by this opportunity to Lady Harcourt, I have only to add my most affectionate love to her.

"I am heartily vexed at the delays in the D. H. business, though I will not yet despair entirely of success.

"Yours, my Dear Brother,
"ever most affectionately,
"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Cateau, Sunday, April 26th*, 1794.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—Though I regret extremely that my having availed myself of His Royal Highness' kind indulgence to go, for one night only, to see Mrs. Harcourt (about whose health I have been extremely anxious), has deprived me of my share in the Laurels which have been gained, I have great satisfaction in informing you of the signal advantage which was yesterday obtained by the Austrian and British Armies which cover the siege of Landrecy.

"The Gazette will inform you of the particulars of the different actions, the immediate fruits of which are the capture of one of the French Generals, 57 pieces of Cannon, and a considerable number of prisoners.

"Give my very affectionate love to Lady Harcourt, for whom I have felt most sincerely.

"Mrs. Harcourt is, I thank God, quite recovered. Adieu, my dear Brother.

"Most affectionately yours,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Camp of Marguiss, Sunday, May 11th*, 1794.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—I seize with pleasure this opportunity to inform you of our further success. Yesterday morning, after a pretty heavy though ineffectual Cannonade upon our left, His Royal Highness was pleased to order me to advance with the greatest part of the British Cavalry, with directions to make use of any favourable opportunity which might offer. We were soon fortunate enough to meet with one near the village of Besieux, where we attacked, defeated, and completely dispersed two pretty considerable Corps of the Enemy's Cavalry and Infantry. 10 or 11 pieces of Artillery, and about 1,500 killed and prisoners, are the immediate fruits of an advantage gained entirely by the Cavalry.

"Upon the whole we have had a brilliant day, and the Duke of York has been pleased to express his approbation in very handsome terms.

"Mrs. Harcourt is, I thank God, much recovered, and is just gone to Bruxelles.

"Give my best love to Lady Harcourt.

"Yours, my dear Brother,

"ever most truly and affectionately,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to his brother, Earl Harcourt :—

"*Camp near Renaix, July 2nd*, 1794.

"MY DEAR BROTHER,—As I am fearful your concern for my personal safety may lead you to imagine that I run greater risks than really fall to my share in this unfortunate turn of affairs, I think it necessary to inform you that, however untoward appearances may be, you need not dread any greater calamity than that of our being obliged to give up this very fine Country, and ultimately to retire towards Holland, where I hope we shall still be able to make a stand. The superiority of numbers which we have had to contend with has certainly exceeded all calculation, but even that might perhaps have been counteracted, had we not had Allies who are lukewarm in the cause, whose Councils are divided, if not ill inclined to the cause, and whose Government has not sufficient energy to call forth the resources of

their own Country: in short the game is lost, and though the Prince de Coburg may possibly make another languid attempt upon the Enemy, he will, in the end, be forced to quit his position near Bruxelles.

"In this state of affairs it is a matter of no small comfort to me that M^rs^. Harcourt, who is now at Malines, is not only in good health, but in such perfect safety that I cannot wish her to return to England unless we should be driven still further back than I even expect.

"Accounts are received of Lord Moira's arrival at Ghent, so that we have it in our power to make a junction with him whenever we think proper.

"Lord Cornwallis arrived here yesterday. Give my very affectionate love to Lady Harcourt, and believe me, with the truest affection,

"Yours,

"W^m^. HARCOURT.

"P.S. The Decree of the National Assembly against giving quarter has been much disapproved of by their Army, and, as yet, we have no reason to believe it has been carried into execution."

From Col. the Hon. W. Harcourt to Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt:—

"*Contieg, 6 miles from Anvers, July 15th*, 1794.

"MY DEAR LADY HARCOURT,—Though a very few days only have elapsed since I wrote last to my Brother, I will not wait for one moment to acknowledge your very kind letter.

"During the last two months our affairs have been going on gradually from bad to worse, and I fear you must still look for further retrograde movements. Indeed, how can it be otherwise with two such Allies, one of which certainly meant to dupe us from the beginning; and the other, after having, by its own miserable mismanagement, thrown away the finest Country in Europe, has deserted the cause at the most critical moment, and is now, there is too much reason to believe, endeavouring to negotiate a separate peace.

"Notwithstanding this very black position of affairs, do not imagine we are by any means in a state of despondency; for though, from the causes I have mentioned, we have lost the great object of the Campaign, I trust we shall still save Holland; and, thank God, our own little Island seems to be in a state of perfect security.

"M^rs^. Harcourt, who has behaved like an Angel throughout this season of trial, and has shewn

more resolution, composure, and resignation, than most people are capable of, has been for some time at Anvers, and since my arrival at this place I have had the comfort of seeing her almost every day. Upon the whole I flatter myself that this must be our last Campaign, and though it has not hitherto proved as successful as some people expected, at least I hope we British neither have, nor shall disgrace ourselves.

"Give my kindest love to my Brother and Sister, and believe me, my dear Lady Harcourt,

"Very affectionately yours,

"Wm. HARCOURT."

Allusion has previously been made to a claim put in by Lord Harcourt for an annual gift of venison from Blenheim. When Blenheim ceased to be a Royal residence, Royal obligations naturally ceased also. Lord Harcourt, however, was an old soldier, and appears to have thought that nothing could be lost by asking for it. Hence the letters which follow :—

"*St. Leonard's, February 19th*, 1824.

"TRUMPER,—I wish to know whether there are any papers (particularly a correspondence between

the Chancellor Harcourt and Sarah, Duchess of Marlbro') in any of the boxes in the Evidence Room at Nuneham, relative to my claim on the Blenheim Estate for a Buck and Doe annually, and if there are I wish you to send them here, as I intend renewing my claim for the same.

"I am yours, &c.,

"HARCOURT."

"The papers required were sent to Earl Harcourt. B. T."

"TRUMPER,—After reading the enclosed letter you will close the seal with wax, and send the keeper with it to the Duke of Marlbro', or in his absence to his steward, Mr. Pain, to whom you will write desiring that a day may be fixed for sending the Buck to Nuneham, and forwarding it from thence to this place.

"Mr. Harcourt's bay mare must be taken from grass and taken good care of, preparatory to her being disposed of, if practicable.

"I am yours, &c.,

"HARCOURT.

"*St. Leonard's, September 16th*, 1824."

"*Woodstock, Sept. 20th*, 1824.

"DEAR SIR,—The Duke of Marlborough desires me to say, in answer to Lord Harcourt's

claim, that he does not consider himself bound by any act of his ancestors, and that whenever his Lordship (as possessor of Stanton Harcourt) shall perform the service due to the possessor of Blenheim, his Grace will be ready to pay the fine for such service as his Lordship may be legally entitled to.

"I remain, Dear Sir,
"Your very obedient Servant,
"P. PAIN.

"*To Mr. Trumper.*"

The two following letters are inserted as shewing the value which was placed upon the suffrage by independent electors in the year 1826.

From William, Earl Harcourt, to his agent, Mr. Bryan Trumper :—

"*St. Leonard's, June 12th*, 1826.

"TRUMPER,—Having just received a letter from Lord Macclesfield informing me that the peace of our county is likely to be disturbed by Mr. Stratton, who has declared himself a candidate in opposition to our late representatives, Mr. Ashhurst and Mr. Fane, whose conduct in Parliament has justly entitled them to the support of their constituents, I wish you to write to such of my

tenants as are freeholders to give them their support at the coming election, and for which I shall consider myself obliged to them accordingly.

"I am yours, &c.,
"HARCOURT."

From J. Westell to B. Trumper :—

"DEAR SIR,—My Father has this morning been actively canvassing in this neighbourhood in favour of Mr. Ashhurst, and on application to Mr. Hollis and Mr. Brown, and other tenants of Lord Harcourt's, they declined voting until they had heard from you what interest you wish them to support. Mr. A. intended writing to Lord Harcourt on the business, but he considers an application to yourself would be most proper under the circumstances. My Father, therefore, earnestly requests you will oblige him by returning by return a request to the tenants of Lord Harcourt to give Mr. Ashhurst their support.

"I remain, Sir,
"yrs very obdly,
"JAMES WESTELL.

"*Witney, June 13th*, 1826.

"*B. Trumper, Esq.*"

Letters from

The Hon. Mrs. Harcourt.

SIR BERNARD BURKE, in his "Genealogical History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, 1879," writes thus of William, third Earl Harcourt:—

"This nobleman was born 20 March, 1743, "and adopting the profession of arms, at- "tained the rank of Field-Marshal, and "was colonel of the 16th regiment of Dra- "goons. His Lordship married, 1778, Mary, "relict of Thomas Lockhart, Esq., and "daughter of the Rev. William Danby, "D.D., of Mashamshire, co. York; but "died *sine prole* 18 June, 1830, when all "his honours became extinct, and his estates "devolved on his first cousin, the Most "Reverend the Hon. Edward Vernon, of "Stanton Harcourt and Nuneham Courte- "nay, Archbishop of York, consecrated Bi-

"shop of Carlisle 1791, and translated to "York 1807, who assumed the surname of "Harcourt (only). He was born 10 Oct., "1757, married, 5 Feb., 1784, Lady Ann "Leveson Gower, daughter of George Gran- "ville, 1st Marquess of Stafford, and sister "of George Granville, 1st Duke of Suther- "land, by whom he had eleven sons and "five daughters."

The memoir of Archbishop Harcourt will occupy the Twelfth Volume of these papers.

It now remains, as far as this present volume is concerned, to give a few letters written by the wife of William, Lord Harcourt—a highly eccentric lady—and to conclude with some miscellaneous verses.

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Sunday, October 3rd.*

"MY DEAREST LADY HARCOURT,—I am quite vexed that I have been so idle, and I don't deserve the kind letter you have just wrote me; but if you knew how busy I have been in the North,

seeing places, drawing, and at my own dear old home, seeing every soul that wished to see me, you would forgive me. I am also quite vexed we lost your visit to us now, because you would have chose to have been here the 29th. The Queen was so good as to send for us. The Concert was at the Lodge. The Company consisted only of Lady Louisa Clayton, Lord and Lady Sidney, Lady Courtown, General Fawcett, and Colonel Digby. I was very happy. I like or rather love the King and Queen, as you say, better and better every time I see them; and so must every body that loves goodness, for they are actually the best and the pleasantest people I ever met with; only we must not say so to ——— or Miss Fauquier, or, rather, if we do they wont believe us.

"We were there half an hour before any body came, so they immediately began music, and had time to say more about it than folios would contain. They seemed truly and sincerely delighted with their visit to Nuneham: the place they were quite charmed with, but they seemed most particularly delighted with their reception, the kindness and manner of which they seemed to be quite struck with; I never knew people say more upon any subject. The Princesses gave me afterwards a particular account of it, and Princess Elizabeth told me that she was so affected with the attention and kindness of the Motto on the Dessert frame

that she very near burst out a crying. They all seemed very much struck with that and the profiles on the boxes. In short all delighted them, and you would be quite satisfied if you could have heard them. They told me no servant came in till the King and Queen desired it, and then arrived six out of livery besides the butler. Mr. Harcourt and I have spent our wits in puzzling who they could be.

"The Queen told me Walter[a] is dead, which I am very sorry for indeed if it is true, but I hope she mistakes.

"We shall be very very glad to see you the 19th, I only regret the fine weather will all be gone by that time, and not a leaf on the trees.

"The Queen said the King has given Mr. Alderson a living, which we rejoice at; it is just what he wanted. I never received but one letter from you, which was since I came here. Pray tell Lady Londsdale I thank her much for one she wrote me, but I really and truly can't read half of it, any more than you can read this; but I write in a great hurry, for if the Bishop[b] don't get it to-day it won't be with you to-morrow.

"We only breakfasted at Hatfield, for Mr. Harcourt did not chuse to do more. It is a most glorious House, but the place very ugly. I never saw any thing so perfect as the fitting up; it is as

[a] The gardener at Nuneham. [b] The Bishop of Carlisle.

if one was alive 200 years ago, and the house just built, the repair so good and the time so kept up.

"Lord and Lady Salisbury go to Paris to-day; —— there are two ambassadors also to take care of her.

"I long to see you very much, and to give you an account of our tour and twenty things I can't write. I depend on the 19th. We go to Court on Thursday. Pray give our best love to Lord Harcourt, and tell Mr. Whitehead how glad we shall be to see him.

"Most affec. adieu, adieu.

"Mr. and Mrs. Sedley are here and beg their love; I like her very very much indeed."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*Weymouth, Monday morning, September*, 1792.

"I could not get a moment yesterday or I would have wrote, but this shall go to-day, without fail, and it will tell you I got well here at four on Saturday. They saw me go by and sent Mr. Harcourt when he had dined. My house is on the Esplanade, so I was dressed and ready when they came by, and I agree with Mr. Harcourt that nobody can be in better health than the King,

it is impossible. He has bathed eight times: it agrees beyond any thing in the world with him, and he don't look so full and bloated, but clear and well, and is in equal and good spirits. The Princesses also look well, but the Queen looks, I think, very ill, and, by all accounts, has been so low and so languid that nothing but real illness can account for it. She always appears to me to look worse and worse every time I have seen her for the last half year. Her foot is bad, but she walks a little.

"They have no society at all but those you know of. Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville are here, but never asked in. The party has always been the Queen, the Princess Royal, Lady Chesterfield, and General Harcourt, at Casino; Princess Elizabeth, Lady Mary, Lady Caroline, Colonel Gwyn, at Cribbage; the King, Colonel Garth, and Lord Chesterfield, at Piquet; Lord and Lady Courtown and Princess Augusta have hitherto played at Piquet, but now I make the fourth of that party at Cribbage. They were delighted to hear how happy the Princesses had been at Nuneham, and expressed much obligation to you and Lord Harcourt, and seemed much flattered by his having gone on the River with them. They had had an exact journal, and the greatest despair had been expressed by the Princesses at the arrival of what they called Dreadful Friday.

"Yesterday morning, to give you a day, I went out soon after seven to walk by the sea; met Mr. Pitt and Colonel Sims, and, soon, General Harcourt; left them to join Princess Augusta and Princess Elizabeth going to bathe; walked with them home; went to my Lodging to breakfast with General Harcourt. He afterwards went to attend the Royals to Church: I stayed at home. After Church every body called, and the King called at the door and talked at the window; the Queen did not come out of her house. I dined with the Chesterfields, who live next door but one to me, which is very delightful. Mr. and Mrs. Damer and George Damer dined there from ten miles off; the latter I think pleasanter than any body.

"At eight we all went to the Rooms, where on a Sunday the Royal family all go, and which is, without exception, the oddest ceremony I ever saw. A very large room, two or three hundred people, none of which (except the two Lady Beauclercs and three or four men) one ever heard of. It is a circle, like a drawing room exactly, and there they stand, or walk if they can, for about half an hour, and then go into the Card Room, which opens into it, and where there were two tea tables; the King and Queen, Lady Courtown and Lady Chesterfield at one, Princesses, Lady Mary, Lady Caroline, and I at the other; the people all walking by the door and looking in, but not coming in; the King walked about a little more, and then all went away at ten. To-day all go to the play. It is lucky it is so cold, for I am to take the box on one side, to sit by the Queen, because they have not one acquaintance here, and she might have a perfect stranger; and Lady Courtown instead of attending her is obliged to take the other side to sit next the King, for the same reason. I am ordered to get acquainted with some Yorkshire people that are here (the great Tatton Egertons with £30,000 a year), in order to get them to help this sitting business at the Play, which I can't understand yet as I have not seen it, but it is the reason they have only been once.

"General Harcourt told you a spy had been here. Macmanis and Maynard (Sir Sampson) then found it all out. It was a servant of the Duke of Devonshire sent here on purpose. He walked so close Macmanis joined him and entered into conversation with him, and he told Macmanis he was sure the King was as bad as ever, only well guarded, and he would listen; so at last, when satisfied and when found out, away the gentleman departed in great haste, and returned with an account that would, I suppose, disappoint the wicked wishes of his employers.

"I am taking this moment from the few I can have of Mr. Harcourt's company, so I don't think you can read it, but if it serves for a moment's

occupation to my very dear friends at Nuneham it will delight me. Pray say how you all are. I am sure I shall hear a good account of Mr. Haggitt, I wish I may of you. As for Lord Harcourt, I left him in rude health. I long to hear Lady Vernon is come. How is Mrs. Siddons? did you say how sorry I was not to see her? Mr. Harcourt is well, but tired of all day fagging.

"Adieu, most affec.

"*A great secret*, the Duke of York to be married on Princess Royal's birthday.

"They only go to the public rooms on a Sunday."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*June 6th*, 1780.

"MY DEAREST LADY HARCOURT,—I am glad to write you word we are all safe and well notwithstanding the Riots, which continue, and, to my great sorrow, part of the Regiment[c] is brought from Croydon to assist in quelling. Very luckily there is only part, so that it is the Lieut.-Colonel's duty to command them and not the Colonel's, who slept very well in P. Place while Sir Robert Laurie was out all night trying to save houses and property without effect; and this they call

[c] The 16th Dragoons, of which General Harcourt was the Colonel.

liberty I suppose. Lord Petre's, Mr. Stapylton's, Lord Rockingham's, Mr. Turner's, and Mr. Burke's houses are said to be devoted, and Guards are travelling about from place to place trying to save them. Sir G. Saville's house was much damaged last night.

"The House is up, and has come to a resolution to inquire into the cause of the Riots, before other business, and not to proceed upon the petition till the Riots cease. A poor tallow chandler's house was burnt last night, though a Protestant, because he was a witness against those who burnt the Sardinian Chapel.

"I will write again to-morrow. My Father is much better, and every body seems just as much intent upon Ranelagh and visits as if the streets were quiet, which future ages will scarce believe.

"Adieu, my dear Sister; best love to Lord Harcourt, and tell him an English Mob is a most unreasonable monster, and popularity not worth having since Sir G. Saville has lost it."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*June 8th*, 1780.

"MY DEAREST LADY HARCOURT,—All is quieter than yesterday, and I trust nearly over.

The Proclamation yesterday probably saved the Country, for had the attack made last night upon the Bank been made as upon Margate the night before, we had been indeed undone. Mr. Harcourt is perfectly well I thank Heaven. I stay at the Mews, which is "the quarters," all day from 7 in the morning, but am sent at 9 at night, much to my concern, to Hill Street, from whence I write this. My Father much the same, not worse but rather better. Lady Elizabeth and Sir William went away this morning; she was most terribly agitated. There are now above 11,000 Men in and about London, so that I hope if it is not quite over it must be soon. Not above 50 were killed last night and to-day in all, and it will, I trust, save thousands. The Heads of Opposition, vizt. Rockingham, Carmarthen, Fitzroy, &c., &c., sent to offer their Horses for the Regiment, and to maintain any Troops if wanted. The House is adjourned till Monday sennight. They compute the private losses to 5 or 600,000 pounds, chiefly in the City.

"Adieu, my dear Sister. My head aches so I can't see, for really last night was a night of horror to those who could only hear and see at a distance.

"Mr. Harcourt wanted me to desire you to send a man from Nuneham to Harcourt House, but he thinks now he had better send some trusty

man, as one from you would be long coming. It is only in order to watch in the back part, as the porter must be in front. Several houses have been broke open by small mobs. In short, never did property seem less safe than while the Country has been for some days governed by an English Mob. Pray tell Lord Harcourt so with my love, and that it is a sign I am easier than last night, as I could not have had spirits to be so impertinent."

Written directly after the attempt made against the life of King George III. by Margaret Nicholson.

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*August 5th*, 1786.

"I WRITE in the Duchess of Ancaster's room, almost twelve o'clock; passed an evening to my heart's content; seen goodness and affection and family love and gratitude to Heaven for the escape in the most delightful degree; heard you loved; said every thing for you and for Lord Harcourt that *your* heart could wish. But you must come on Thursday. Every soul comes. The Queen expects it. The Duchess of Ancaster says it is almost *necessary*, and certainly right. Miss Golds-

worthy says it would be an omission you would be sorry for if you did not come, as others will come, and the Queen takes attention on this occasion particularly kind. This she bids me tell you. They talked much of the affair.

"The King told it me all exactly, and with a candour that does him honour. He said if he had not happened to have seen the woman preparing her petition, and from her eagerness kept his eyes fixed on her, he could not have escaped, for she was close to him, and on her drawing the knife from the paper he stepped back; that she aimed a second blow, but was caught by the Guard, and a servant wrested the knife from her hand. It was a large servants' eating-knife with a horn handle, made sharp on both sides, and so thin that it was bent, though he is not sure whether it struck against him or not, but he thinks it did not. He said he called to them directly to take the knife from her, but not to hurt the woman, for he was not hurt. She lived servant with Mrs. Rice; she left her, I hear, from being wrong in her mind. She is so certainly on this subject, and Monro declares her so. The Prince of Wales came instantly to Windsor from Brighton, stayed two hours with the Queen and Princesses, but did not see the King.

"Miss G. bids me tell you she had three tete a tetes which she says you will understand. I will write again to-morrow. Fred North, Del Campo, and the Chesterfields waiting.

"Adieu. Adieu.

"The Duchesses best love.

"The Queen said how immense the Levee was, and what a drawing room there will be on Thursday."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*April 29th*, 1796.

"UPON communicating to General Harcourt our conversation yesterday, he wished I should again trouble you on the subject. To tell you the truth, feeling as I do the satisfaction of being *greatly* in *the right* (forgive the proud expression), I was contented, but he is not contented unless I am *thought* so. I can, however, really only repeat what I said to you (for truth must ever be the same), that no communication either directly or indirectly have I ever had by letter with the Princess of Wales; that no line have I ever wrote to her but a fortnight after her marriage to enclose a petition for the daughter of a Lady to be placed in a convent: the answer I remember their Majesties saw at Windsor, therefore my supposed *bad* advice must have been confined to the Drawing room, the parties at the

Queen's House, and the two I have attended at Carlton House, as I have never been there at any other time, nor had any other opportunity of seeing the Princess; and I hope it cannot be doubted that the few moments she has on those occasions given me have been taken by me to impress upon her true devotion and submission to their Majesties and the Prince, and that perfect forbearance and patience (under any circumstances she might think distressing) was the only way to obtain at last her wish for confidence and domestic happiness.

"I fear I have rather avoided than sought those opportunities; and I reproach myself for it, as perhaps the kindness the Princess must naturally feel for me from being her first English acquaintance, and having received her from the hands of her parents, might have induced her to attend to my advice, and on that account I told you yesterday I would pledge myself to nothing, as it would be my duty if it ever was in my power to be of any little use to all parties.

"It is hard, and General Harcourt feels it still stronger than I do, that all the pains I have taken to keep out of this great *tracasserie* has not succeeded.

"You well know I was so far from seeking the honour of attending the Princess to England, that it was with the greatest pain I received an

order that separated me from General Harcourt, and which my then wretched state of health made infinitely distressing; but I obeyed because I understood there were difficulties on the subject in England, and my love for, and devotion to, their Majesties made it impossible for me to put my own comfort or convenience in competition with being of any service to them in my power. On my arrival, seeing those difficulties increase, I retired to the Country where I ever wish to continue, and I may say it is not a little hard that my being in London against my inclination should implicate me in what I have so much sought to avoid. But I repeat again that I have the satisfaction of knowing I am *perfectly right*, and having acted with *openness*, *fairness*, duty, and affection, I feel thoroughly persuaded that in the end I must have the full and perfect *approbation* of their Majesties, whose justice and goodness I am sure of, and which is the only reward in this world that I desire either for this or a former occasion on which I was so fortunate as to be of use.

"I will also add, my dear Lady Harcourt, that thinking as strongly as you know I do that, after above half the common course of life is passed, the little remainder is but a little moment, I have no further views but to do my duty to God and Man, and that I had rather lose by doing right than gain by doing wrong. In the direction of

my conduct I have the best, the coolest, and the most judicious adviser, from whom no thought of my heart is ever hid. For that great blessing I thank Heaven.

"I rather chose to write than to talk to you again, because I wish to keep to the rule I have laid down of not letting this subject ever occur between us. One of the comforts of my situation has been the harmony in which I have lived with you and Lord Harcourt. It is essential to the comfort of General Harcourt that it should continue, as well as to that of your very affectionate

"M. HARCOURT."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt :—

"*May 5th.*

"I HAVE this moment received your letter, truly kind, as every act of yours towards me has ever been. I know that on this occasion as well as every other I am obliged to you for every exertion you can make to be of use to me; and I always feel that full and perfect confidence in your opinion and friendship, that I would trust myself in your hands sooner than in any body's I know. I am sure of your benevolence, sure of your fear of injuring and desire of serving; and

this is an opinion so fixed in both General Harcourt's mind and my own that we have often made it, in speaking of you, the subject of our conversation and praise.

"Therefore, I was not surprized at your success with the Queen, for I am sure I owe the change more to you than to my letter. As to the Prince, I leave you to do as you please about him, but the idea of *Justification I disclaim*, because, had I happened to have seen the Princess, or to have wrote to her, I should not have been wrong, as I could have given her no advice, for my Country's sake and my own, but such as the Queen herself would have given her and wished her to receive.

"In regard to the other Lady, I still think as I did on that subject, for if you *knew* (and from my heart and soul I wish you did know) the opinion of the world on her account as well as I do, you would *know* that nothing could hurt me so much in the general opinion as having any concern with her at all.

"I am quite disappointed that you did not tell me what has passed in the last few days, which I expected would have determined the fate of our dear Princess Royal. I was more anxious about that than any other subject, and I do entreat you to write directly and fully about it. Pray find five minutes to give me that satisfaction to-morrow; (should I go to Windsor it would be in the even-

ing) ; or I shall know nothing. I really think the future happiness of the whole family depends on this business ; therefore pray, when you can, relieve me on the subject.

"We must, I fear, come to town on Friday for my Uncle's birthday. I should be very sorry to leave the Country in all its beauty for anything else. I shall, however, be also very glad to see you."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt :—

"*Kew House, June 26th*, 1801.

"YOU know this House and the impossibility of finding a single moment, but I hope and trust General Harcourt has wrote you all about his appointment[d], which is a very delightful one, and very unexpected ; for, what is very odd, it never once entered into either General Harcourt's head or mine that he would have the appointment ; though we both knew of the Institution, for he has been upon all the Boards. His own government goes to Lord Clanricarde, so of course this will be better in point of income ; and so it ought, for it will induce great expense, a great many more horses necessary to be kept, and more people coming to the House. The kindness of the

[d] The government of the new College of Sandhurst.

King and the Duke about it is extreme. Both said that they knew not which thought of it first, for both agreed nobody was so proper, as he united all the requisites; as it was necessary it should be a man of rank, and a man who had served much and distinguished himself, and would be efficient, and wish to promote the bringing forward others to be like himself. The place is near Blackwater, about thirteen miles from S[t]. Leonard's.

"I went with the Royal family to dine at Oatlands yesterday, which I was very glad to do. The day was very fine and the place much improved ; it is made all Gothic and very comfortable. Nobody went with them but the Ladies and Prince Adolphus, and there was no sort appeared there but the Duke and Duchess. I felt delighted at the opportunity of thanking both the King and the Duke about General Harcourt, for I am rejoiced at the thing because it pleases him so much. It is so very creditable, and what in all Countries is only given to a man at the very top of the profession ; and as he has felt at times uneasy at not being employed in his military line, so now he will feel that he is selected for the most important office in it, and it does my heart good to have him gratified.

"As for the King, I protest at no period of my life did I ever see the King better. He is most

perfectly and essentially well in every respect, and most delightfully kind and good to every body; and, in short, I now think his health so confirmed that we may hope in the common course of things to have the blessing of his life very long preserved to this Country. I think also the Queen better than usual, and all are well and all pretty happy, except a few of the old grievances you know. They themselves wanted the King to go to prorogue the Parliament, but I am glad he is steady in not doing it, for it would only harry him, and as he is really well what signifies what a few ill-disposed people say? besides it always is a subject of anxiety to every body whenever he goes; so they set out for Cuffnalls on Monday and stay till Friday, and then go on to Weymouth, Princess Sophia, Lady Cathcart, &c.

"I am here in the House on the green with Lady Bath and Lady Caroline Waldegrave, very comfortable; on Sunday they go, and my carriage comes on Monday morning and carries me on to S^{t}. Leonard's, where I shall find General Harcourt settled: he has come here in a morning to ride with the King.

"Every evening we drive out and drink tea somewhere or other, and are to be ready at half-past nine for the same business in the morning, so Adieu."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*St. Leonard's, Wednesday night, June 27th.*

"I HAVE wrote to M^{r}. Hayes for a certificate, our curate is not in the Country. I was very glad to receive a much better account of Lord Harcourt from M^{rs}. Richards than from you. She says they find him so much better than they expected; the weather has been against all invalids.

"I am writing just returned from dining at Frogmore, and left General Harcourt going into the Dutch barn with all the world to see the Phantasmagoria of the German play; so you see how prudent I am, but a burnt child dreads the fire.

"I returned, however, very wretched on the King's account. I actually fear he will in a short time be quite blind. The last eight days the dimness has increased to a most alarming degree. The Queen got Phipps down a day or two ago; to *him* he tried to speak comfort, but to THEM he proved he had the greatest apprehension of the worst consequences without the greatest precaution; and he has not yet been prevailed on to leave off his vile cocked hat, which I verily believe is partly the cause of the disease, for he has a prominent Eye, and with little shade from either

the lid or eyelashes; and this foolish idea of a round hat being democratic has made him expose his poor Eyes to scorching sun and wind, which, together with a tight stock, has inflamed them and perhaps thickened the christaline humour or given him a Cataract.

"They are all wretched; Princesses Mary and Sophia in tears all day, and every one affected by his manner of speaking of his state and by seeing him feel with a stick for the steps, and not even knowing his children by sight. He said there was a time when he used to say that he wished he might die as soon as he lost his sight; but, knowing how wicked that was, he was trying to reconcile himself to the idea, and to think of resources when the misfortune happened. I hear Phipps means to bleed him, and indeed it appears as if it was most necessary, for his face is *black red*, and he looks fuller than I have seen him for ages. He talked much of his tour, and said though his sight would no longer assist his enjoying it for his own sake, he should enjoy the pleasure it would give to others."

From the Hon. Mrs. Harcourt to Countess Harcourt:—

"*August 13th.*

"YESTERDAY was beautiful in every respect, and went off to perfection, for the day was fine,

and summer has at last blessed us with its presence. It comes most acceptably, for the harvest and fruits of the earth wanted sun most sadly.

"The Troops in the Camp, with the addition of the Prince of Wales' Regiment; the multitudes of people on the opposite bank; the feu de joie; the whole scene cannot be described. The line was a mile in length, backed by wood; the company, all on the opposite bank, backed also by wood; the Bands all playing; the Cannon firing; the Troops cheering after the feu de joie. Had it been for any other occasion how the mob would have joined the loud Huzza, and how one should have felt it thrill through one's veins! After the Military part we went to the Garden and the great Lodge; there the Indian tents, admirably disposed and placed in a picturesque situation, with a great stage before the Royal tent made of the same singular and showy materials, above fifty feet long, and covered with Turkey carpet, gave one the idea of some Eastern nation; with the additional pleasant reflection that we had to bless God that the tent contained a British king and not an Eastern tyrant. We had all the beauty and magnificence of an Eastern fete without its inconvenient accompanyments. I really was delighted like a girl of twenty, and cannot give you any idea of its striking effects. On the stage came numbers of men and boys dressed in

rich Eastern habits, and, after dances of the Country and music suited to what they represented, there was the best tumbling and rope dancing that I ever saw, and unlike any that is exhibited at the London places of entertainment. Where they got them or who dressed them I know not, but they were in perfect taste, and most unexpected was their appearance. This continued while all the company dined, with many hundred spectators ranged around; after which there was a Ball in the House, and every body was delighted. To-night the Royal family go to the play, and we to a Ball given by the Blues in Camp.

"To-morrow is a great Terrace, Thursday the play again, Friday another Ball at Swinley, and Saturday they go to Weymouth; but we have multitudes coming that day and the next, and the night before last we had the two sofas in the drawing room and two mattrasses on the floor. At night arrived Amadee and General Don from abroad, and set out for Dover the next day; they came only to the Duke of York. I think the Prince of Wales is in good spirits and quite recovered. General Abercrombie has sailed; if he makes good his landing all follow as quick as they can. The 7th and 15th sail next week. You know Lord St. Vincent has passed the Gut[e]; his Fleet, which was only eleven leagues from the

[e] Gibraltar.

combined Fleet, which was going towards Brest, took one ship with despatches ordering the Spanish Fleet back to Cadiz, possibly a feint, but, at any rate, as our Fleet is in these seas, Ireland is safe, and the Expedition can go. The poor ——[f] is quite delighted; he talks of being soon on horseback again, and so Adieu, I have time for no more.

"The child[g] there again, but not its mother[h]."

The following letter was written shortly after Lord Harcourt's death.

From Lady Harcourt to the Countess Dowager Harcourt:—

"*Ludlow, May 30th*, 1809.

"How could you fancy, my dear, that I would choose the China? take whatever is most convenient to yourself, there will be enough left for us.

"I am glad we thought of it, but it is always my opinion that the situation of women is never enough considered. They lose all they love, and therefore want, in their latter days at least, those conveniences which, having been used to, and having less exertion to enable them to find substitutes, they are less able to do without. Any

[f] King. [g] Princess Charlotte. [h] The Princess of Wales.

thing, therefore, in which it is possible that we can be of use to *you* be assured must give us both satisfaction.

"As for your own China, you had better send a list, that whenever we go there we may get it packed up; or, what would be the same thing, you can send to order it. There are some chairs of the Dowager Lady Vernon's work, if I recollect right, in the red room at Nuneham; I should think you would like to have them yourself for your own House, and we can easily get others; and I think you would wish to have some of the small drawings out of your own little dressing room, or the rooms below it. Now all we can wish is that you will send for what you want.

"I write this from Ludlow, the most beautiful spot, and the most interesting that I have seen this long time. The Castle is magnificent. We spent this morning at Mr. Knight's at Doveton Castle, which is a most romantic spot, and to-morrow we return to Malvern, hoping to meet my Brother.

"It is so dark I can only say Adieu. May God bless you."

From Lady Harcourt to the Countess Dowager Harcourt:—

"*St. Leonard's, August 31st*, 1809.

"I MEANT, my dear, to have answered your kind letter, or rather to have forestalled it to Nuneham, but it was not in my power; for, what with those who came for the Races, and the dining out both days on the Course, not a moment had I, and glad was I when I found that the Queen did not go to-day. Poor Louisa Erskine also has been with us till this morning, so I had her sorrows to bear in the midst of all the confusion; but we go to London to-morrow, which will be comparative quiet. I am glad you have got over the sad Nuneham visit, which could only tear your heart and open fresh wounds in every way; and I wish you had left Sudbury and were settled at Bishopthorpe, and shall rejoice when you can tell me so. I find Lord [1] and Lady Vernon will leave Wales the 5th, and be long at Park Place.

"The marriage prospect seems to give them every hope of comfort that they can have in parting with an only child.

"Princess Amelia, though fatigued, got pretty well to Andover, and would be at Weymouth last

[1] George, second Lord Vernon, the Dowager Lady Harcourt's half-brother. He was married to Louisa, sole daughter and heiress of Lord Mansel.

night. Princess Sophia is better, but has mended slowly.

"I hope these dispatches have brought letters from all the Army in Spain to their anxious friends, but 1,500 sick were obliged to be left in the hands of the French. That Colonel Anson is well, and has gained such credit, must give his friends much pleasure.

"Mrs. Broderic came to see Mrs. Proctor, and I think it did her harm, for both were agitated.

"Adieu, my dear Lady Harcourt; the General *loves* you, and so does

"Your affectionate,

"M. H."

The following letter was addressed to Elizabeth, Countess Harcourt; and the verses that follow are extracted from her scrapbook:—

"MY DEAR FRIEND,—When I saw you last I told you that I thought Poetry had of late forsaken its proper province, the useful and the instructive, and been seduced into the fairy grounds of frivolous amusement.

"I have been employed lately in endeavouring to bring it back to its original design, and for that purpose have determined to consecrate my poetical talents to that most elegant and sublime work *The compleat English Housewife*, by Mrs. Elizabeth Raffield.

"I mean to render it entirely into verse, but I have not yet fixed upon what species of poem or what kind of versification I should adopt. I have sent you one of her lofty dogmas as a specimen; it is called "a receipt to make a hunting pudding," and will be found in the 168th page of that inestimable volume. I have given it in four different ways,—as a piece of familiar versification,—as a solemn composition in blank verse,—as an ode,—and as an elegy. Whichever you approve of most I will fix upon for my model.

"I am, with the truest esteem,

"Yours, &c.

"J. D."

First Specimen.

PLUM PUDDING,—A SONG.

"BEAT eight eggs, and add to them
A pound of flour, a pint of cream;
Of beef suet, fresh and sound,
Finely chopped, put in a pound.
Throw a pound of currants in,
Nicely picked, and nicely clean;
Eight ounces of the best jar-raisin,
Chopped and stoned for the occasion.

Then in the composition pour
Powder sugar ounces four.
Add to these, I recommend it,
Ounces two of citron candied.
Then an equal portion put
Of candied orange, nicely cut;
Grate a full-grown nutmeg next,
And be the whole together mixt.
In one half a gill of brandy,
Cogniac's, the best that can be.
And, when in a cloth you've tied it,
Safely to the pot confide it;
And thus, if my receipt's a good one,
In four hours you'll have a Pudding."

Second Specimen.

PLUM PUDDING,—A MEDITATION.

"YE tuneful nine, who on Olympus' top
Have waked the sounding strings, and bade the lyre,
In trembling notes and trilling chords, rehearse
The fame of nations and the fate of kings,
Assist my daring flight, and aid my song
While with a poet's rapture I unfold
How man, weak erring man, may best assay
His greatest work—a pudding to prepare.
First let thine hand with nice selection cull
Eight new laid eggs, and beat them up with care;
Then add a pound of triturated wheat;
A pint of cream, fresh from the flowing bowl,

A pound of adipous solidity,
Such yclept, ta'en from the lowing herd.
And, oh frail mortal, see to chop it small!
The sable currant next must claim a place—
A pound its quantity—and cleanse it well.
The arid grape, imported in the jar,
Shall then be added—half a pound we ask—
Freed of its seeds, and elegantly chopped.
Four ounces next of sugar, pulverized,
Must deign to give its dulcet influence.
The fruits preserved of India and of Spain
We next invoke to yield their kind assistance;
The candied citron and the candied orange,
And each bestows two ounces for its share.
Then shall thy fingers seize the spicy nutmeg,
And grind it into dust and throw it in;
Nor let oblivion tempt thee to neglect
To pour in half a gill of generous brandy.
Thus formed thy mixture, put it in a cloth
That shames the whiteness of the mountain snow,
And tie it close, and plunge it in a cauldron,
And when four hours have winged their rapid flight,
The muse shall own—Ambrosia was a pudding."

Third Specimen.

PLUM PUDDING,—AN ODE.

"WHAT form transports my raptured sight,
Shedding round ethereal light?
What Goddess meets mine eye
From the blest mansions of the sky?

Where yonder clouds their curling summits spread,
She cuts her lucid way;
And, as her glittering footsteps tread,
Darkness retires, and gives his place to day.
'Tis *Truth*—'tis *Truth*, for she alone
Of all the heavenly train could beam so bright;
A red star her adamantine zone,
Her veil's a sunbeam, and her shadow's light.
And hark she speaks—the world around
With eager ecstasy shall catch the sound;
The Gods from high in rapt attention bend
To hear her trilling voice ascend;
While rocks and groves the notes prolong;
And ravished nature drinks the flowing stream of song.
Hapless mortal, would'st thou ask
How a pudding thou may'st form?
Then begin the awful task,
Thus complete the potent charm.
First with patient hand prepare
Twice four eggs, as silver fair,
Choose them fresh and beat them well,
Thus begin the potent spell;
Then in the mixture pour
A pound of wheaten flour,
And o'er thine embryo pudding's head
Let a full pint of cream in foaming waves be shed.
Then ask the lowing train
(Thou shalt not ask in vain)
One gentle pound of suet to supply;

And, when thou'st cut it fine,
Its sacred influence let it join;
And soon thy pudding's praise on fame's broad wings shall fly.
A pound of currants must succeed,
Obedient to thy touch;
From each extraneous mixture freed,
Of raisins thou must take but half as much.
But see, fond man, they're raisins of the jar,
And mind that they are stoned and chopped with heedful care!
The charm's not ended yet:
Of powdered sugar twice two ounces get,
And let it shed its dulcet balm,
And each unkindly influence calm!
Then be these joined,
Two ounces of the candied citron's rind,
As much of candied orange place;
But see it chopped and cut with elegance and grace,
And, as thou view'st the compound grow,
Into the spell a grated nutmeg throw;
Add half a gill of brandy—generous power!
Then stir thy pudding up, and cry 'my labour's o'er.'
Yet stay, yet stay, rash youth,
Still thou must tie it in a cloth,
Still must plunge it in a pot,
Bubbling, boiling, hissing hot;
And in four hours behold, thy charm complete,
An awful pudding rise that Aldermen might eat!"

Fourth Specimen.

PLUM PUDDING,—AN ELEGY.

"WHERE bending osiers kiss the curling tide,
A drooping fair with mournful footsteps strayed;
And oft she beat her breast, and oft she sighed,
Oft wiped the streaming tear, and thus she said:

Dear faithless youth, dear false perfidious swain,
Will neither prayers nor tears thy pity move?
How shall I strive to touch thy heart again?—
Perhaps a pudding may awake thy love.

I'll choose eight snowy eggs, with fondest care,
And beat them with a pint of smiling cream;
Then shall these hands a pound of flour prepare,
A pound of suet chopped shall join to them.

Next will I add a pound of currants clean;
Then half as many raisins of the jar,
Chopped small and stoned, shall strait be tumbled in,
And ounces eight of pulverized sugar.

Of candied citron ounces two I'll add,—
The same of candied orange nicely cut;
A grated nutmeg shall be next conveyed,
And last one half a gill of brandy put.

Then will I tie it closely in a cloth,
And four hours boil it ere I set it free;
Then will I dish it up, and thus, false youth,
I'll gain a pudding, though deprived of Thee!"

On reading Mrs. Piozzi's "Anecdotes," Mr. Boswell's "Tour to the Hebrides," and other publications relative to the character of Dr. Samuel Johnson:—

"OH Johnson! learned, venerable shade,
What havock of thy Fame hath Friendship made!
What childish Trophies round thy manly Bust!
What noisome weeds are planted in thy Dust!
Yet sleep in peace—and though to me unknown
(Save from the music of thy learned Renown),
Accept this Verse, if ought my Verse can boast,
To soothe the anguish of thy injured Ghost.
What though thy Friends, thy dearest Friends, have tried
To blaze those Faults, which e'en thy Foes would hide;
Though like a Gem by some rude Artist set,
We mark thy Flaws, thy Brilliancy forget;
Yet rest assured, when all their Triumph's o'er,
Thy Friends and Enemies are known no more.
When time shall mould the sprightly works of Thrale,
And turn to Vinegar her choicest ale;
When Boswell, of his Birth and Friendship proud,
(MacLean, MacSwegn, MacCromheil, and MacCleod),
Indignant round the savoury steak shall fry,
Or light Mundungus in the Isle of Skye;

When Pindar[a] too, Soame Jennings[b], and myself,
Shall lie (meet victims) on a Grocer's shelf,
Still shalt thou live, and o'er thy hallowed Tomb
Fair Science weep, and Bays perennial bloom.
PHILALETHES."

Lines by Viscount Cranley on the honours lately given :—

"WITH gallant Onslow, second in command,
Nine Ships, says Duncan, from the Dutch I took ;
Nine Votes, says Rose, which go like steeds in hand,
Smith writes me word, are entered on his book.
Such worth, cries Pitt, our will is to reward,
Go knight me Onslow, and make Smith a Lord."

A NOSEGAY.

"TAKE a sprig of Good Humour, some Flowers of Wit,
And of every Grace just as much as is fit ;
Use a Handful of Charms, and a fresh Bud of Youth,
With a mixture of Modesty, Judgment, and Truth :
Good Behaviour in Deeds, and not in pretence :
True Good Breeding is always the Blossom of Sense.
Add the Bloom of the Rose with Elegance placed,
Join all these with Prudence, and tie them with Taste.
Few Ladies at Courts can such Nosegays display,
'Tis the same Lady Nuneham wears every day."

[a] Peter Pindar. Vide Town Eclogues, Bozzi and Piozzi, &c.
[b] Vide Epitaph on Dr. Johnson, written by that celebrated author.

Miss Catherine Fanshawe to Lord Harcourt, occasioned by his saying that as the ancient way of spelling Catherine was with a K, he thought her wrong in using a C when she wrote her name :—

"AND can his Antiquarian eyes
My Anglo-Saxon C despise ?
And does Lord Harcourt day by day
Regret th' extinct initial K ?
And still with ardor unabated
Labor to get it re-instated ?
I know, my Lord, your noble passion
For every long-exploded fashion ;
And own the Katherine you delight in
Looks irresistibly inviting :
Appears to bear the stamp and mark
Of English writ in Noah's ark ;
But 'all that glitters is not gold,'
Nor all things obsolete are old.
Would you but take the pains to look
In Doctor Johnson's Quarto Book
(As I did, wishing much to see
Th' aforesaid Letter's pedigree),
Believe me, 'twould a tale unfold,
Would make your Norman blood run cold.
My Lord, you'll find *that K's* no better
Than an interpolated Letter ;

A wandering Greek, a franchised Alien;
Derived from Cadmus, or Deucalion.
And why or wherefore, none can tell,
Inserted 'twixt the J and L.
The learned say our English tongue
On Gothic beams is built and hung;
Then why the solid fabric piece
With motley ornaments from Greece?
Her lettered despots had no bowels
For northern Consonants and Vowels:
The Roman and the Greek Grammarian
Held all our parts of speech barbarian,
Till our rude speech or ruder blows
Had silenced those imperious foes;
And proud they were to kiss the sandals
(Shoes we had none) of Goths and Vandals—
So call we now the various race
That gave the Roman Eagle chase,
Nurtured amid the storms that roll
In thunder round the Arctic Pole,
And from the bosom of the North,
Like Gelid rain-drops, scattered forth.
Dread Odin's desolating sons,
Teutones, Cimbrians, Franks, and Huns.
But hold! 'twould try Don Quixotte's patience
To nomenclate this mob of nations,
Whose names a poet's teeth might break,
And only Botanists could speak.
They, at a single glance would see us
Ranged in the system of Linnæus.

Would organize the mingled mass,
Assign their genus, order, class,
And give, as trivial and specific,
Names harder still, and more terrific.
But since our Saxon Line we trace
Up to this all-subduing race;
Since flows their blood in British veins
Who led the universe in chains,
And from their sole dominion hurled
The Giants of the ancient world;
Their boasted languages confounding,
And with such mortal gutturals wounding,
That Greek and Latin fell, or fled,
And soon were numbered with the *dead*.
Befits it us, so much their betters,
To spell our names with conquered letters?
And shall they rise and prate again,
Like Falstaff from among the slain?
A licence quite of modern date,
Which no long customs consecrate:
For since this K (of hateful sound)
First set his foot on British ground,
Is not, as antiquaries know,
A dozen centuries ago.

That darling theme of English story,
For learning famed, and martial glory—
Alfred, who quelled th' usurping Dane,
And burst, indignant, from his chain;
Who slaves redeemed to reign o'er men,
Changing the Faulchion for the Pen,

A wandering Greek, a franchised Alien;
Derived from Cadmus, or Deucalion.
And why or wherefore, none can tell,
Inserted 'twixt the J and L.
The learned say our English tongue
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Alfred, who quelled th' usurping Dane,
And burst, indignant, from his chain;
Who slaves redeemed to reign o'er men,
Changing the Faulchion for the Pen,

And outlined, with a master's hand,
Th' immortal Charter of the Land—
Alfred, whom yet these realms obey,
In all his Kingdom owned no K:
From foreign arms and letters free
Preserved his c y n z ly dignity,
And wrote it with a Saxon C.
  This case in point from Alfred's laws
Establishes my Client's cause;
Secures a verdict for Defendant:
K pays the cost, and there's an end on't.
The suit had lingered long I grant, if
Counsel had first been heard for Plaintiff.
Who might, to use a new expression,
Have urged the plea of *dis*possession
(Since that which modern times explode
The world will deem the prior mode),
And put our better claims to flight
By pre—I mean *pro*scription right;
But grant this specious plea prevailing,
And all my legal logic failing,
There yet remains so black a charge,
Not only 'gainst the K's at large,
But th' individual K, in question,
You'd tremble at the bare suggestion,
Nor ever more a wish reveal
So adverse to the public weal.
  Dear gentle Earl! you little know
That wish might cost a world of woe.
The Ears that are unborn would rise

In judgment 'gainst your Lordship's eyes:
The Ears that are unborn would rue
Your Letter-patent to renew
The dormant dignity of Shrew.
The K restored takes off th' attainder,
And grants the Title, with remainder
In perpetuity devised,
On Katherines lawfully baptized.
  What has not Shakespeare said and sung
Of our pre-eminence of Tongue!
His glowing pen has writ' the name
In characters of Fire and Flame;
Not Flames that mingle as they rise,
Innoxious, with their kindred skies,
Some chemic, lady-like solution,
Shewn at the Royal Institution,
But such as still, with ceaseless clamour,
Dance round the Anvil and the Hammer.
See him the Comic Muse invoking,
The merry Nymph with laughter choking,
While he exhibits at her shrine
Th' unhallowed form of Katherine;
And there the Gorgon image plants
Palladium of the Termagants:
He formed it of the rudest ore
That lay in his exhaustless store;
Nor from the crackling Furnace drew,
Which still the breath of Genius blew,
Till (to preserve the bright allusion)
The mass was in a state of fusion.

Then cast it in the sharpest mould
E'er modelled from a living scold.
When from her shelly prison burst,
That finished Vixen, Kate the curst!!
If practice e'er with precept tallies,
Could Shakespeare set down ought in malice?
From nature all his forms he drew,
And held the mirror to her view;
And if an ugly wart arose,
Or pimple, upon Nature's nose,
He flattered not th' unsightly flaw,
But marked, and copied, what he saw;
Strictly fulfilling all his duties,
Alike to blemishes and beauties;
So that, *in Shakespeare's time 'tis plain*
The Katherines were scolds in grain;
No females louder, fiercer, worse.
Now contemplate the bright reverse!
And say, amid the countless names
Borne by cotemporary Dames,
Exotics fetched from distant nations,
Or good old English appellations—
Names hunted out from ancient Books,
Or found on Dairy-maids and Cooks,
Genteel, familiar, or pedantic,
Grecian, Roman, or romantic,
Christian, Infidel, or Jew,
Heroines fabulous or true,
Rebeccas, Rachels, Judiths, Hannahs,
Dinahs, Deborahs, Ruths, Susannahs,

Martias, Portias, and Virginias,
Lucretias, Flavias, and Flaminias,
Dianas, Daphnes, Delias, Floras,
Cassandras, Helens, and Auroras,
Nannys, Fannys, Jennys, Hettys,
Dollys, Mollys, Biddys, Bettys,
Sacharissas, Melesinas,
Dulcibellas, Celestinas—
Say is there one more free from blame,
One that enjoys a fairer fame,
One more endowed with Christian graces
(Although I say it to our faces,
And flattery we don't delight in),
Than Catherine at this present writing?
Where then can all the difference be?
Where? but between the K and C?
Between the graceful curving line
We now prefix to atherine,
Which seems to keep, with mild police,
Those rebel syllables in peace;
And that impracticable K,
Who led them all so much astray,
Was never seen in black and white
A character more full of spite!
That stubborn back, to bend unskilful,
So perpendicularly wilful!
With angles, hideous to behold,
Like the sharp elbows of a Scold
In attitude, when words shall fail
To fight their battles tooth and nail.

In page the first you're sagely told
That 'all that glitters is not Gold.'
Fain would I quote one Proverb more,
'N' eveillez pas le Chat qui dort.'
Here some will smile, as if suspicious,
That simile was injudicious,
Because in *C-a-t* they trace
Alliance with the Feline Race;
But we the name alone inherit,
C has the Letter, K, the spirit.
And woe betide the man who tries
Whether the spirit ever dies;
Though dormant long, it yet survives
With its full complement of lives;
The nature of the beast is still
To scratch and claw, if not to *kill*.
For royal Cats, to low-born wrangling,
Will superadd the gift of strangling;
Witness, in modern times, the fate
Of that unlucky Potentate,
Who from his Palace near the Pole,
Where the chill waves of Neva roll,
Was snatched, while yet alive and merry,
And sent on board old Charon's Ferry;
The Styx he traversed, execrating
A Katherine of his own creating—
Peter the third, illustrious Peer,
Great Autocrate of half the sphere
(At least of all the Russias he
Was Emp'ror and Czar of Muscovy).

In evil hour this simple Czar,
Impelled by some malignant star,
Bestowed upon his new Czarina
The fatal name of Katarina;
And as Monseigneur l'Archeveque
Chose to baptize her á la Grecque—
'Twas Katarina with a K—
He rued it to his dying day;
Nay died, as I observed before,
The sooner on that very score.
The Princess quickly learnt his cue,
Improving on the part of Shrew;
For as the plot began to thicken
She wrung his head off, like a chicken!
In short this despot of a Wife
Robbed the poor man of crown and life!
And robbing Peter, paid not Paul,
But cleared the stage of great and small;
No corner of the throne would spare
To gratify her Son and Heir,
But lived till threescore years and ten,
To trample on the rights of men.
Thy short existence, hapless Peter!
Had doubtless longer been, and sweeter,
But that thou wilfully disturbd'st
The quiet names she brought from Zerbst:
Nor was it even then too late,
When crowned and registered a Kate,
When all had, trembling, heard and seen
The shriller voice and altered mien,

Had'st thou (without the barbarous measure,
That Russian Boors adopt at pleasure,
Of publishing a tedious Ukase,
To state to all the world the true case),
By virtue of th' imperial Knout,
But whipped th' offending Letter out,
She in the fairest page of Fame
Might then have writ' her faultless name,
And thou retained thy life and crown,
Till Time himself had mowed them down.
Perhaps, my Lord, you think the storm
That needs must follow this reform,
And crown your philanthropic labors,
Will only crush your Friends and Neighbours,
While you, secure from all alarms,
Defy the Alphabet in arms;
Assured no gathering clouds can lower,
O'er fair Eliza's charmed bower:
But oh reflect—'tis worth reflection—
On one yet unforseen objection—
Th' enormous sureties you must find
To tranquillise the public mind.
We must suppose so wise a state
Would feel the danger to be great,
Nor such a Delinquent release,
Till bound in form to keep the Peace.
And not alone your simple word
Would satisfy the vulgar herd;
They'd large securities demand,
And seek them at your Lordship's hand:

Such as would drain your very coffer,
Though stored with all the wealth of Ophir;
Though lovely Nuneham's rich domains
Were wider than Arabian plains;
Though Flora, portress at your gate,
Could vegetable gold create;
And where her orange groves ascend,
Whose boughs with yellow fruitage bend,
And scatter round from countless flowers,
With each light breeze, ambrosial showers,
That fruit could change to sterling metal,
And drop a pearl from every petal,
Scarce would the mighty pledge avail,
Or justify so rash a bail.
Shall you your wealth and credit barter
For a dead letter's forfeit charter?
Shall I a helping hand extend
To aid the ruin of my friend?
Forbid it all ye powers that bind
With potent chains the grateful mind!
Forbid it all ye powers excelling
In the deep mysteries of spelling!
And ye! who teach the sons of men
To guide with faltering hand the pen,
These solemn words record—and thou,
Harcourt's dread Earl! attest my vow,
If e'er—an alien born and bred—
The K dare rear its mushroom head
(Proved as it is beyond dispute
A consonant of ill repute)

Within the precincts of my name,
And I admit th' unlawful claim,
May never syllable of mine
Reach the full length of Catherine ;
Deprived of this baptismal right,
May they, uncouth to sound and sight,
Of self-disgrace a hideous pattern,
By my own hand be *written Kattern !*
May I be famed for noise and strife,
Or called Miss Fungus all my life !"

Verses composed while lying on a sick bed, January the 1st, 1796, by Miss Catherine Fanshawe :—

"RETURNING from the gates of death
(Within whose awful porch I lay),
Again to draw the vital breath,
And view the cheerful day,

The soul on poised wings that hung,
Ready to flit in viewless air,
The pallid lip and faltering tongue,
Oh ! what shall they declare ?

Shall they, with new vigour fraught,
With life and energy restored,
To Thee address th' aspiring thought,
My Saviour ! and my Lord ?

And there the blunter point is seen
Long rankling in the kindred breast,
When the full edge, in mercy, keen,
Has given its victim rest.

Rescued from sorrow, pain, and death,
Their terrors veiled, withdrawn their sting,
Let me, as long as I have breath,
Sing praises to my King.

But oh, my soul ! if length of days,
And years of added life be lent,
Will such a loan in empty praise
Be profitably spent ?

Father of light ! some beam of grace
Round my dark soul vouchsafe to spread ;
Be Thou my guide, and deign to trace
The journey I should tread

To Thee, who with so strong a chain
The powers of my soul confined,
That all was mere corporeal pain
Fled from the captive mind.

Nor from that subtle active flame
Withheld the consciousness alone
Of ills that shock the outward frame,
And sufferings of her own,

But bade her not, in pity, know
The sympathising griefs that rend,
With pangs of far severer woe,
The parent, sister, friend !

Armed with a doubly-pointed dart,
Death ever aims a twofold wound;
The shafts that pierce the victim's heart
To other hearts rebound.

So the dry branch, like Aaron's rod,
May by the mighty Planter's care
Still flourish in the courts of God,
And fruit eternal bear."

Addressed to Lady Caroline Lamb on her son's Christening, October 13th, 1807. Sent us from Mr. Prudy, but written by Mr. Sheridan.

The Prince of Wales was one of the Godfathers.

"GRANT Heaven! sweet Babe, thou may'st inherit
What nature only can impart,
Thy Father's manly sense and spirit,
Thy Mother's grace and gentle Heart,
And when to manhood's Hopes and Duties grown,
Be thou a prop to thy great Sponsor's Throne!"

Lines by Lord Francis Leveson Gower:—
A VOICE FROM THE HIGHLANDS.

"THE peak of yon Mountain is shining in Light,
Like the Beacon which summoned our Fathers to fight;
Each Chief from the Highlands has followed the blaze,
At the call of his Monarch his Standard to raise.

The sleep of the Heathcock is peaceful and still,
For the Pibroch has summoned the sons of the Hill;
We have left the red Deer to be Lord of the Glen,
And by tens and by fifties have mustered our Men.

Yet the Dirk and the Broadsword may serve but to show
That to welcome a Foeman we had not been slow;
We haste where yon Vessel approaches the Land,
But it is not for Battle we press to the Strand.

Our Chieftains they crowd round the greatest of all,
The first in the Field, and the first in the Hall;
To so mighty a Master 'tis given to few
So fair and so willing a Homage to do.

No Master but he, for his Frown or his Smiles,
Could call from his mountains the Lord of the Isles;
To him and no other in duty would bow
The Plume of the Eagle on Sutherland's brow.

For him and no other Glengarry would stay
So far from the Stag and the rifle away;
They are few to whom Campbell or Gordon would yield
Unbidden precedence in Hall or in Field.

When he musters his kinsmen the best shall not fail
His Standard to bow, and his Bonnet to vail;
From a long line of Chiefs his Dominion began,
His Vassals a Host, and a People his Clan.

Then sound me that Pibroch, the shrillest and best,
Which woke in Arroyos the French from their rest.
Then loud be your shout, as on Maida it rose,
O'er the clash of your Claymore your Bayonets close.

Though calm of Demeanour our spirits can glow
At the smile of a Friend or the scowl of a Foe;
When his Vessel approaches yon Mountains shall ring
With the shout which we raise for our Chieftain and King."

Appendix.

A LIST OF THE HARCOURTS OF STANTON HARCOURT WHO HAVE REPRESENTED THE COUNTY OF OXFORD IN PARLIAMENT.

John de Harcourt . .	elected	14 Nov., 1322
Sir Thomas de Harcourt .	„	12 Feb., 1375
Sir Robert de Harcourt .	„	6 Nov., 1450
Richard de Harcourt .	„	11 Sep., 1460
Sir Richard de Harcourt .	„	11 Dec., 1477
Sir Philip Harcourt . .	„	25 Feb., 1680
[Sir Philip's son was made a Peer.]		
George Granville Harcourt	„	9 May, 1831
„ „ „	„	17 Dec., 1833
„ „ „	„	12 Jan., 1835
„ „ „	„	20 July, 1837
„ „ „	„	5 July, 1841
„ „ „	„	3 Aug., 1847
„ „ „	„	12 July, 1852
„ „ „	„	30 Mar., 1857
„ „ „	„	2 May, 1859
Edward William Harcourt	„	5 Feb., 1878
„ „ „	„	31 Mar., 1880
„ „ „	„	2 Dec., 1886

SUMMARY.

Thus have eight members of the same family sat in eighteen parliaments, over a period of five hundred and sixty-four years, for the same County.

END OF VOL. XI.

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